

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO NURSES AT WOODLAND TERRACE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the nurses at the Woodland Terrace Nursing Home in my home District of Florida.

As you all know, this is national nurses week and I am privileged to speak on behalf of the many talented nurses at Woodland Terrace. The Fifth District of Florida, and in fact the entire State of Florida, has a large and growing population of senior citizens. I firmly believe that seniors are one of our nation's most valuable assets. We will be judged on how well we care for our seniors.

The nurses at Woodland Terrace have not shied away from this important responsibility. I continue to be impressed with the quality of care at Woodland Terrace; a standard which is largely attributable to the nurses who work there.

At a time when many analysts are predicting a nursing shortage in the near future, it is critical that the nursing workforce be given proper commendation for continual hard work and dedication to what can seem like a thank-less profession. With that, I offer my most sincere thank you to the nurses at Woodland Terrace for a job well done!

HONORING THE POLO HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING PANTHER PRIDE BAND

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Polo High School Marching Panther Pride Band from Caldwell County, Missouri. The band, comprised of 7th through 12th grade students, has had many significant accomplishments in the last year. Most recently, the band has been honored with an invitation to play at the 2003 Toyota Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Florida. I, along with Polo High School students and administrators, are proud of the band's successes.

The band has worked very hard in competition to establish a reputation of marching excellence over the last two school years, which was a pre-requisite for their acceptance in the 2003 Gator Bowl Parade. Additionally, the band has been acknowledged for many outstanding achievements including 2nd place in the class 1A parade at Carrollton Band Day in 2001, 1st place in the class 1A parade at CMC Band Day in 2001, 1st place in class 1A at the Northwest Missouri State University Homecoming Flag Corps in 2002, the color guard competition in 2001, 1st place in the

class 1A parade at the Missouri Day Parade in 2002, 1st place in the class 1A Parade at Central Missouri State University Homecoming in 2002, 2nd place in the class 1A parade at Northwest Missouri State University homecoming in 2002, and 1st place in the Chillicothe Christmas Parade in 2002.

Many students have dedicated their time and effort to making the band the accomplished organization that it is. I commend the time and dedication these students have put forth being a part of this wonderful after school activity while also working hard at their studies. Marisa Fultz, Drum Major and Field Commander and Brenna Hicks, Assistant Drum Major have worked very hard to ensure that the band performs at it's best.

Additionally, the band has received a great deal of support from the education community, including the Board of Education, Mrs. Marla Barnes, President of the Board of Education, Mr. Gerald Snodgrass, Superintendent, Mr. Robert Newhart, Polo High School Principal, Ms. Beverly McQueen, Elementary School Principal, and the band boosters led by president Darrin Hicks.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Polo High School Marching Panther Pride Band. The band is a primary example of educational excellence in North Missouri and in their community. I wish them the best of luck at the Gator Bowl!

SHEILA J. ADAMS HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Sheila J. Adams, a friend and constituent, who will be honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) at NCCJ's 75th Anniversary Dinner on May 22, 2003. NCCJ, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism through understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures.

Sheila was selected to be honored by NCCJ because, as one person noted, "She's been involved, she's been active, she's led. She's gone from success to significance. Success is about you, but significance is about what you've done for others." And Sheila has consistently done a lot for others.

For over thirty years, Sheila has been a human relations professional. As president and chief executive officer of the Cincinnati Urban League since 1990, Sheila oversees programs and services that help African Americans and others to achieve social and eco-

nomie parity. Because the Urban League's goal is to eliminate the barriers of racism and level the economic playing field, her work includes employment and training programs; after school programs; parent empowerment programs; and adult and youth leadership development.

Sheila is also active with many other local organizations, serving on the Health Foundation; Cincinnati CAN (Community Action Now); Advocates for Youth Education; and the Cincinnati Chapter of Links, Inc. She has been honored as a Cincinnati Enquirer Woman of the Year; a Great Rivers Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction; and a University of Cincinnati Notable Black Alumni.

All of us in Cincinnati have benefitted from Sheila Adams' service. We congratulate her on this well deserved and distinguished award from NCCJ.

KEEPING THE PROMISE TO OUR DISABLED VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to call the attention of the House to three bills that I have introduced to address concerns of our nation's disabled veterans. Each of the bills was introduced in response to requests from veterans all across the nation.

H.R. 1919 will authorize transportation on military aircraft on a space-available basis for veterans with a service-connected disability rated at 50% or more. Currently, members and retirees of the uniformed services and the reserves may travel free on Department of Defense (DoD) aircraft when space is available. This benefit is allowed when it does not interfere with military missions and is a recognition of military careers filled with rigorous duty.

But present policies do not extend this benefit to our disabled veterans. What more rigorous duty can be imagined than to become disabled in the service of our country? Why has the DoD chosen not to recognize the brave men and women who sacrificed their health and well-being while serving in uniform? This DoD policy is wrong, and H.R. 1919 would correct it.

This bill would cost the federal government nothing, and adding disabled veterans would not interfere with benefits for active-duty personnel. Current military is always given priority, and H.R. 1919 would do nothing to change that. What my bill would do is to allow seats that would otherwise go unused to be occupied by men and women who have been disabled in their service to their nation.

Two other bills, H.R. 1917 and H.R. 1918, would also allow veterans with service-connected disabilities to use military facilities.

The DoD provides Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs to bring some of the benefits of civilian life to military communities. These programs are the cornerstone of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

community quality of life, providing for fitness, recreation, libraries, sports and athletic programs. DoD considers MWR programs as critical to mission readiness and productivity—these programs contribute to physical fitness and recruitment and retention of personnel.

In addition, civilian employees and their families are allowed access as a perk of their employee benefit package. Other groups, such as the Scouts of America, can also utilize the lands by getting special permission. In contrast, most of the over 2 million disabled veterans (rated 0% to 90% disabled) are currently deemed not disabled enough to be considered a patron of MWR. My bill, H.R. 1917, would fix that!

A third bill, H.R. 1918, would extend commissary and exchange store privileges to service-disabled veterans with a rating of 30% or more and their families. Congress must do all we reasonably can for the men and women in uniform who have become disabled in service to our nation. Our disabled veterans are important members of a greater military family, and they should be treated as such with every available opportunity.

I believe that changing these policies—use of military recreational lands, transportation on military aircraft, and commissary privileges—are the right steps to take for our disabled veterans! They have sacrificed their health and well-being for their country, and I believe that they have earned the right to these privileges. Please join with me by co-sponsoring these three bills and working for their passage.

A TRIBUTE TO ROBESON COUNTY CELEBRATION OF FLIGHT

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to salute the Robeson County Celebration of Flight celebration from May 14–May 18, 2003. The Lumberton Municipal Airport will host this special event that acknowledges and honors the 100-year celebration of the feat of Wilbur and Orville Wright.

Charles F. Kettering once said, “The Wright Brothers flew right through the smoke screen of impossibility.” On December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, the Wright Brothers manned the first-ever controlled, powered flight, and their optimism of achieving the impossible became our reality. And this reality has truly opened the world for all to see.

In honor of this historical event, The Robeson Aeronautical Foundation, Inc. and the Lumberton Municipal Airport have organized special events to celebrate this monumental feat. For three days, the Lumberton Municipal Airport will host school children from throughout the region. These children will be able to view a variety of exhibits highlighting the importance of sport aviation, the role of aviation in the military, and the history of aviation in the region. The celebration will culminate with a two-day air show featuring some of the best displays of aeronautical skill in the world.

My fellow colleagues please join me in saluting the Robeson County Celebration of Flight organizers for their time, energy, and re-

sources in planning for this event. May God's blessings shine upon them and all that they have done, and may God bless this special celebration.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE BURRELL MERRITT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the accomplishments and character of a great American, a great friend and a constituent of mine, Judge Burrell Merritt. Burrell celebrated his 61st birthday this weekend and I was pleased to be a part of the celebration honoring him.

A lifelong resident of Brooksville, a graduate of Hernando High School, and a lawyer educated at the University of Florida, Burrell is a true Floridian and an outstanding lawyer and community leader.

In 1968 he joined the Richard E. McGee law firm as an associate and later that year he became a municipal judge for the City of Brooksville. In 1970 he became a partner in his own law firm, McGee and Merritt. In 1985, he was named a partner of a new firm, Merritt, High, Underwood & Eppey and in 1985 he was made senior partner in the Merritt and Mason firm.

In 1998 after thirty years practicing law, Burrell became a Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit serving Hernando County. He currently works with civil, family law, probate and child support enforcement cases.

He is a member of the Hernando County Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association and the American Bar Association and numerous other civic and social organizations, serving a leadership role in many of them. His skills and talent as a law professional have been recognized by numerous groups and associations. He has received a plethora of awards and accolades for his diligent work both as an attorney, judge and community member.

Aside from his accomplishments in his legal profession, Judge Merritt is also a Cattle Rancher. He operated the very successful Merritt Farm and Livestock Company in Brooksville.

Mr. Speaker it is easy to see why I am so proud of his accomplishments and why they are worthy of recognition on the floor of this body.

RICHARD JANULEWICZ ON HIS 20TH ANNIVERSARY WITH THE CLAY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Richard Janulewicz, Director of Clay County Public Health Center in Clay County, Missouri. Richard has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and service and is being honored for his 20-year commitment

to the health center and the citizens of Clay County.

Richard is well known among his staff and the citizens of Clay County for taking the initiative to make positive change in their community. He interacts on many levels with the people he comes in contact with and maintains the highest degree of professionalism and honesty. He prides himself on the hard work and dedication he has displayed over the past two decades.

During his years at the health center, Richard has designed and implemented new programs that have made Clay County one of the healthiest in the state. He has undoubtedly been one of the most influential people in Clay County's history. His colleagues and friends describe him as honest, dependable, helpful, trustworthy and professional. It is people like Richard that make me proud to call myself a Missourian.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Richard Janulewicz, who exemplifies qualities of dedication and service as both an employee and a citizen of Clay County, Missouri.

ROBERT KANTER HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished constituent, Robert Kanter, who will be honored by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews, at NCCJ's 75th Anniversary Awards Dinner on May 22, 2003. NCCJ, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry and racism through understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures.

Bob's motivation for getting involved is simple—he enjoys it. He once said, “I found out you can get much personal satisfaction by giving your time and talent.” Robert has given enormously to organizations in our area over the years. Currently, he is president of the Plum Street Temple Historic Preservation Foundation; chairman of the Jewish Foundation; chairman of Jewish Health Systems, Inc.; a trustee of the Health Alliance of Greater Cincinnati; a board member of the Lower Price Hill Community School; and founder of the Man to Man Prostate Cancer Support Group at Wellness Community.

In the past, Bob served as chairman of the Health Alliance of Cincinnati; president of the Isaac M. Wise Foundation; chairman of the Jewish Hospital; co-chair of the Jewish Federation campaign; trustee of the Emery Center; board member at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion.

Bob is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and began his career with a public accounting firm. In 1966, Bob formed Rookwood Properties, a company that acquires and manages investment real estate. Bob and his wife,

Lynne, have three sons and seven grandchildren, all in the Cincinnati area.

A noted individual has said, "Robert is the conscience of the Jewish community in Cincinnati." All of us in Cincinnati thank Robert for his service to our area, and we congratulate him for being honored by NCCJ.

SENIOR CITIZENS NEED OUR HELP

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to urge support for two bills that I have just introduced to provide financial relief to our Nation's senior citizens. Both men and women will receive assistance with this legislation, but because older women are often with less financial resources, they will particularly benefit.

My first bill is H.R. 1922, the Fair Taxes for Seniors Act. This bill would provide a one-time increase in the capital gains tax exemption on the sale of a home for citizens who are 50 or older. Passing this bill would give many seniors the additional money they need for nursing home care, medical costs, and other retirement expenses.

The current capital gains tax exemption works well for younger people who often move from job to job, selling their homes. The current exemption works well for people who live in areas where housing prices are below average. But it is not working for individuals who have lived in one home for 20 to 50 years and have a capital gain that is much larger than the present exemption. In other words, it is not working for seniors who live in areas with higher housing prices.

A senior citizen named Eleanor lives in Glen Ellyn, IL and bought her home with her husband 45 years ago. The value of her home at the time of her husband's death was \$32,000. Eleanor is now 78 years old and needs to move into a nursing care facility. Her house is worth \$579,000, and the combined Federal and State taxes after the current capital gains exemption are \$68,000. Her only income is from Social Security and a small pension, and she needs the money from the sale of her house in order to move into the nursing home. Eleanor would like to stay in the Chicago area because her friends are there, but the price of nursing care is high there as well. Should a 78-year-old woman have to move away from the city where she has lived all her life because, as a widow, she is considered single and has to pay higher taxes? The tax of \$68,000 is money she should be able to use for medicine, living expenses, and her nursing home.

Marilyn is a single, professional woman who lives in Mission Hills, CA—near my Congressional District. She purchased her home over 30 years ago for \$65,000. She chose to become involved in her community and has stayed in the same house throughout her lifetime. Marilyn is now 60 years old and would like to sell her home and move to a smaller condo in the same area. The selling price of her home is now \$895,000, and her combined Federal and State taxes are \$169,940 after the current exemption. Should singles who remain in one house for many years be taxed

for their stability and their long-term commitment to their community—and essentially for being single? A one-time exemption on capital gains would allow Marilyn to downsize her life for her retirement years in a way that is financially sensible.

Sally, a divorced, single mother in Seattle, WA is 57 years old. She chose to stay in one home for 37 years so her children could stay in the same school system, and so she could live near her work and her church. One of her adult children has developed severe health problems and has had to pay medical bills not covered by insurance. Sally needs to help with these medical expenses and has decided to sell her home to pay some of the doctor's bills. Her home that she purchased for \$55,000 is now worth \$629,000, and the combined Federal and State taxes are \$64,000. This tax money is money that Sally should be able to use to pay off medical bills as well as to get ready for her own retirement.

My bill would provide a one-time increase of \$500,000 for a single person and \$1 million for a couple in the amount excludable from the sale of a principal residence for taxpayers who have reached the age of 50. Let us help our citizens over age 50 who have lived in one home for many years. Let them keep the proceeds from the sale of their homes for retirement and health care costs. An added benefit is that family members and perhaps the government will be relieved of the burden of caring for these individuals as they grow older.

My second bill is H.R. 1923, the Social Security Survivors Fairness Act, legislation to provide Social Security widows' benefits for women under the age of 60. Maria is a 58-year-old widow who lives in San Ysidro, CA in my Congressional District. Throughout her lifetime, she worked in the home, raising her children and supporting her husband. Now her husband, who received Social Security benefits, has passed away. There currently is a provision for Maria to receive Social Security widows' benefits, but to qualify she must be 60 years old.

Social Security is telling Maria that she must find a way to support herself for 2 years before they are going to help with widows' benefits. It will be very difficult for her to find a job at her age, when she has never worked outside of her home. Women in their late 50s who are dependent on their husband's Social Security are left with no means of support if their spouse dies.

My bill would amend the Social Security Act to reduce from 60 to 55 the age at which an individual who is otherwise eligible may be paid widows' or widowers' insurance benefits.

I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 1922 and H.R. 1923 to provide financial assistance to our country's most vulnerable citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS AND MARY GREYARD

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Thomas and Mary Greyard who celebrate the 50th anniversary of their wedding on May 25, 2003. Natives of south-

eastern North Carolina, they have spent their 50 years of matrimony in McDonald, in my home county of Robeson.

The French author, Andre Maurois, once said, "A successful marriage is an edifice that must be rebuilt every day." With dedication, determination, and devotion, Thomas and Mary have followed their hearts and built their lives together for half a century.

Thomas and Mary are people of dedication. Dedication not only to each other, but to their two sons, their family, their church, and their community. Having both served as Mayor of the Town of McDonald, as elders and teachers at Iona Presbyterian Church, and as members of various local volunteer organizations, the Greyards have provided a positive example for all to follow.

The devotion that the Greyards have shown is a testament to their love and respect for each other. It is this same devotion to those things we hold most dear in our lives that has served as an example to those around them.

Thomas and Mary, thank you for your dedication and your devotion. We wish you continued success, and may God's strength, peace and joy be with you always!

TRIBUTE TO THE WALL-RIVES AMERICAN LEGION POST 58

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to commend the Wall-Rives American Legion Post 58. They are celebrating 75 years of dedicated service to the honorable veterans residing in Dunnellon, Florida.

On March 3, 1927, the American Legion Post 58 was issued a temporary charter from Department Headquarters in Palatka, Florida. They started out in 1927 with 15 members. Since then they have grown to . . . members through the hard work and dedication of their committed members.

American Legion Post 58 was christened "Wall-Rives Post 58" on May 26, 1947 in honor of Winchester Wall and Hugh Rives, two brave soldiers and residents of the area, who lost their lives during WWII, in the Bataan Death March.

The memory of these dedicated servicemen has been honored throughout the years by the members of the Legion as they continue the legacy of service to their community.

Mr. speaker, I am proud of the service that members of Wall-Rives Post 58 have rendered to our great nation in their 75 year history and I ask you to join with me in thanking them for their service.

RECOGNIZING FORD MOTOR COMPANY ON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Ford

Motor Company. Ford has exemplified the social, economic, and cultural heritage America and is deserving of due recognition for their many accomplishments.

On June 16, 1903, 39-year-old Henry Ford and 11 associates started the Ford Motor Company. Armed with little cash, some tools, a few blueprints and abundant faith, these men set out to start one of the most innovative industrial and global institutions.

During the 1903 production year, the first commercial automobile, the Model A, was released by Ford. This 8-horsepower, 2-cylinder vehicle had a 2-speed transmission, 28-inch wheels with wooden spokes and 3-inch tires. It was the first of many alphabetical cars, as Ford went through 19 letters of the alphabet, creating Models A through S, with some of these cars being experimental and not available to the public.

October 1, 1908 was a historic day as Ford introduced the "Universal Car", the Model T. The Model T proved to be a versatile car that could be reconfigured by buyers to move cattle, haul freight, herd horses and even mow lawns. In its first year of production on the Model T, Ford set an industry record, producing 10,660 of the cars.

In the early days, all automobile makers built one car at a time. Ford revolutionized this process with the idea of moving the work to the worker. This became a reality when parts, components, and 140 assemblers stationed at different intervals inaugurated the first moving assembly line in 1913. A new era of industrial progress and growth began for the company.

The Ford plant in Claycomo, Missouri is a remarkable example of the many achievements of the company. Ford's employees, retirees, suppliers, dealers, and its many customers have truly been an asset to the 6th district.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the Ford Motor Company on their 100th anniversary and for their many contributions to the 6th district, the State of Missouri, the United States and the world.

THOMAS G. CODY HONORED BY
THE GREATER CINCINNATI
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL
CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY
AND JUSTICE

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a dear friend and constituent, Thomas G. Cody, who will be honored for his extraordinary community service on May 22, 2003, by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) at NCCJ's 75th Anniversary Awards Dinner. NCCJ, founded in 1927 as the National Conference of Christians and Jews, is a human relations organization dedicated to fighting bias, bigotry, and racism through understanding and respect among all races, religions and cultures.

Tom was selected to receive NCCJ's honor for his 20 years of community service in Cincinnati. He has been described as someone who is enormously dedicated to our community, and who exhibits that in his service. Cur-

rently, Tom is on the board of trustees for the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and is co-chair of Cincinnati CAN (Community Action Now). He has also served on the boards of trustees for Children's Hospital Medical Center; the Children's Hospital; Xavier University; Life Center; and NCCJ and is a past chair of the Cincinnati United Way and Community Chest and Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees.

Tom has also had a successful business career. He is currently vice chairman of Federated Department Stores, Inc. in Cincinnati. He joined Federated in 1982 from Pan American World Airways, Inc., where he was Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary. A native of New York, Tom received a B.A. degree from Maryknoll College and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati are indeed fortunate that Tom Cody and his wife, Mary Ellen, settled in our region and chose to focus so much of their time and energy on making our community a better place. We congratulate him on receiving this prestigious honor from NCCJ.

THE GREEN ISLE CHILDREN'S
RANCH

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Green Isle Children's Ranch in my Fifth Congressional District of Florida. At this center, a group of dedicated, hard-working, caring individuals has been working for more than 15 years to better the lives of at-risk children.

The Green Isle Children's Ranch was founded in 1987 by men and women who had worked within the prison system and had seen the great need to prevent children from entering the vicious cycle of detention home, jail, and prison.

The Ranch is an interfaith outreach center that helps at-risk children and troubled families. It houses, counsels, educates and spiritually nurtures troubled and at-risk children from ages 6-15. Most are emotionally handicapped; some suffer from such conditions as attention deficit disorder, and fetal alcohol syndrome. Most have been verbally abused and some physically or sexually abused. All have considerable inner emotional turmoil and anger and almost all are the products of broken homes.

The Mission of the Green Isle Children's Ranch is a noble one. It seeks to provide a residential program for at-risk children; to counsel, educate, and spiritually nurture them, and to provide parenting classes and guidance for each child's family. The ranch serves as a resource for troubled families, providing advice, counseling and a sympathetic ear. In addition, the Green Isle Children's Ranch networks with community organizations, such as local churches, Big Brothers, YMCA, other children's facilities, civic clubs, and community organizations, to expand upon the resources available to them as they strive to better the lives of children.

Green Isle uses a caring approach to help at-risk children, which was developed by Dr.

Jack Lynd at the Edgewood Children's Ranch in Orlando. Counselors at the center work with each child's family, without regard to race, creed, national origin, or ability to pay—and they do it all without accepting tax money.

Mr. Speaker I am proud of the work done by the Green Isle Foundation. I'm proud to have such a facility in my district and I'm proud to say that because of this organization, so many children in my Fifth District of Florida have been positively affected. Their work is to be commended and their cause is so very honorable. I salute, the dedication and care with which Florida's at-risk children are being treated and I salute the Green Isle Children's Ranch.

RECOGNIZING THE GARY, IN
NAACP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize and commend the members of the Gary branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). On Friday, May 9, 2003, the Gary NAACP will hold its 40th Annual Life Membership Banquet at St. Timothy Community Church in Gary, Indiana.

The Gary NAACP was organized in 1915 by a group of residents to monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in Northwest Indiana. The national organization, of which the Gary branch is a member, focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings. Like the national organization, the Gary branch of the NAACP serves its community by combating injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in our society.

The primary focus of the NAACP continues to be the protection and enhancement of the civil rights of African-Americans and other minorities. Today, that fight for equity and quality extends to many issues including health care for minorities. Thus, the theme for the evening is, Taking the Next Steps to Reduce Health Disparities. Long before it became a broad based public concern, efforts were underway to ensure that economic and social barriers would not lead to increasingly severe health crises in minority communities. The featured speaker, Dr. Willarda Edwards, National Health Director for the NAACP, will speak about how the NAACP has been leading the effort to inform and educate the community about health care costs; quality and access; disease prevention; health care professions and training; and youth and elderly issues.

Further, this year the Gary NAACP will honor two outstanding community leaders for their lifelong efforts to further equality in society as well as one sorority. Mr. John Betjeman, retiring CEO of Methodist Hospitals, will receive the Benjamin Hooks award and Dr. William Mays, CEO of Mays Chemical, will receive the Roy Wilkins award. Additionally, joining more than four hundred outstanding civil, community, and religious leaders of the region, the following distinguished individuals will be inducted as life members of the Gary NAACP in the categories indicated. Persons

receiving the vintage life membership include: Dharathula Millender, Dorothy Clark, Anna Connor, Dr. FranCina Conard, Delorise Webster, and Rev. Samuel Roberts. Those receiving silver life memberships include: Roosevelt Allen, Jr., Ella Bradford, Valerie Allen Broadnax, Jacqueline Hall, Esq., and Christina Sally. St. Timothy Community Church will be receiving the gold life membership and Steven Christopher Tinsley and the Youth Church at St. Timothy Community Church will receive junior life memberships.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the new life members as well as the other members of the Gary NAACP for the efforts, activities, and leadership that these outstanding men and women have championed to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

WHY THE CRACKDOWN ON CUBA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the following article entitled "Why the Crackdown in Cuba," by Wayne S. Smith into the RECORD.

WHY THE CRACKDOWN IN CUBA?

(By Wayne S. Smith)

Various newspaper articles reporting the deplorable crackdown on dissidents in Cuba have correctly noted that the situation there earlier had seemed to be inching toward somewhat greater tolerance. During his trip to Cuba in May of last year, for example, President Carter met with Cuban dissidents and in his televised speech to the nation spoke of the Varela Project, an initiative of theirs calling for greater political freedoms. And both before and after Carter's visit, many other Americans, myself included, regularly and openly met with the dissidents as part of a broad effort to expand dialogue and improve relations between our two countries.

Oswaldo Paya, the principal architect of the Varela Project, was even recently allowed to come to the United States to receive the W. Averell Harriman award from the National Democratic Institute in Washington, and from there he went on to Europe. The Cuban government may not have liked what he had to say while abroad, but he wasn't punished for it when he returned home. It did indeed seem that things might slowly be moving toward somewhat greater tolerance of dissent on the island.

Why then the recent arrest of dissidents? Is it, as some in the United States quickly posited, that Castro was simply hoping the rest of the world was so distracted by the war in Iraq, that no one would notice or react to the detention of a few dissidents in Cuba?

No, that explanation simply doesn't hold up. First of all, no one in his right mind (and whatever else he is, Castro is that) would have expected the arrest of over 80 dissidents, many of them well-known international figures, to go unremarked. The Cubans expected a firestorm, and they got it.

Second, the timing could hardly be worse from Castro's standpoint. The UN Human Rights Commission has just begun its annual deliberations to decide, among other things, whether to condemn Cuba for violations of human rights. Given the greater tolerance

discussed above, there had seemed a good chance that Cuba would not be condemned this year. The crackdown, coming just now, makes that far less likely.

Given all that, why the crackdown and why now? To answer those questions, we must first note that the greater leeway for dissent noted above came in response to the overtures of groups in the American Congress and the American public, not to any easing of the hard line on the part of the Bush Administration. Quite the contrary, its policies and rhetoric remained as hostile and as threatening as ever. It ignored all Cuban offers to begin a dialogue and instead held to an objective of regime change. As Mr. James Cason, the Chief of the U.S. Interests Section has stated publicly, one of his tasks was to promote "transition to a participatory form of government."

Now, we would all like to see a more open society in Cuba; that indeed, is what we are all working toward. But it is not up to the United States to orchestrate it. In fact, it is not up to the United States to decide what form of government Cuba should have. Cuba is, after all, a sovereign country. To the Cubans, for the chief U.S. diplomat in Cuba to seem to be telling them what kind of government they should have seemed a return to the days of the Platt Amendment.

The Bush Administration was uncomfortable with signs of greater tolerance on Castro's part, for that simply encouraged those in the United States who wanted to ease travel controls and begin dismantling the embargo. New initiatives along those lines were expected in the Congress this spring. What to do to head them off?

What the Administration did is clear enough. It ordered the Chief of the U.S. Interests Section in Havana to begin a series of high-profile and provocative meetings with dissidents, even holding seminars in his own residence and passing out equipment of various kinds to them. He even held press conferences after some of the meetings. The Administration knew that such "bull-in-the-china-shop" tactics would provoke a Cuban reaction—hopefully an overreaction. And given that the purpose was "regime change", the Cubans came to see them as "subversive" in nature and as increasingly provocative. Those arrested were not charged with expressing themselves against the state, but with "plotting with American diplomats."

The circumstances are different, but to understand Cuban sensitivities in this case, let us imagine the reaction of the U.S. Government if Cuban diplomats here were meeting with members of the Puerto Rican Independence Party to help them promote Puerto Rico's transition from commonwealth to independence. Perhaps the Attorney General would not arrest everyone involved, but I wouldn't take any bets on it.

And the beginning of the war in Iraq did play a role in the crackdown. The Cubans saw it as a signal that the United States was determined to throw its weight around and to blow away anyone it doesn't like through the unilateral use of force. As one Cuban official put it to me recently: "This new pre-emptive-strike policy of yours puts us in a new ball game, and in that new game, we must make it clear that we can't be pushed around."

It was this kind of mind set that led to the crackdown and that turned the latter into a massive overreaction. The Cubans did exactly what the Bush Administration had hoped they would do. Virtually the whole active dissident community has now not only been arrested but put on trial (or notified that they soon will be) and given extremely heavy sentences. Tragically, this is a blot that will not be easily erased and that will impede any significant progress in U.S.-Cuban

relations until there is some amelioration of conditions in Cuba. The Bush Administration meanwhile will certainly continue the pressures, and the provocations, so as to prevent any such amelioration.

It has been argued that Castro simply saw this as a propitious moment to halt dissent in Cuba, and there are doubtless some elements of truth to that argument. Castro has never liked to be criticized. Still over the past few years, he had tolerated criticism of the system. All things being equal he might have continued to do so. But the situation has changed, not just between the U.S. and Cuba, but internationally, in ways that the U.S. public is just beginning to understand.

In the dark days that lie ahead, people of good will in the United States who want to see a more normal relationship between our two countries, and to see a more open society in Cuba, should hold to the demonstrable truth that the best way to bring about both is through the reduction of tensions, the beginning of a meaningful dialogue and increased contacts. As Elizardo Sanchez, Cuba's leading human rights activist, has often put it, "the more American citizens in the streets of Cuban cities, the better for the cause of a more open society; so why do you maintain travel controls?" The policies followed by one administration after another over the past 44 years have accomplished nothing positive. True to form, the policy followed by the Bush Administration, and the clumsy tactics of the U.S. Interests Section, have produced only a crackdown. Exactly what we should not want!

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE ORDER OF THE ELKS NATIONAL YOUTH WEEK

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work of the Central New Jersey Elks Lodges who are observing National Youth Week. This week is intended to honor the Junior Citizens of Central New Jersey with whom the Elks have worked throughout the past twelve months. The Elks Lodges work in conjunction with the schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and other local youth organizations to promote the principles of the Order of the Elks and those of the collaborating organizations.

The ideals celebrated by the Order of the Elks, as a part of National Youth Week, include academic achievement, volunteerism, and community service. Young people are recognized at dinners organized by the Elks Lodges to their accomplishments in these areas. Examples of events include, working with the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts to sponsor the Blue and Gold Dinner at which merit badges are distributed. The Tournament of Champions in conjunction with the schools celebrates the academic achievement of local students.

I commend the Order of the Elks for promoting these important ideals in our communities. They are reinforcing and rewarding our Junior Citizens for displaying important community values. It is only through the development of a combination of scholastic excellence and a meaningful sense of community participation that we can build strong communities for tomorrow. Clearly the Order of the Elks in

celebrating National Youth Week is doing just that.

I ask that all the members join me in congratulating the Order of the Elks for their important work with youth in Central New Jersey.

ROAD TO BE NAMED IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT HECTOR POLLA

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the fine accomplishments of the late Lieutenant Hector Polla. Lt. Polla is a decorated hero of World War II whose wartime sacrifices must be remembered. The United States Army will name the new Defense Access Road at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, after Lieutenant Hector Polla.

Hector John Polla was born in Lexington, Missouri, in 1916. He graduated from Higginsville High School and Wentworth Military Academy Junior College before heading to the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1937. Upon his graduation from West Point in 1941, Lt. Polla was deployed to the Philippines and stationed on the Bataan Peninsula. He was there when the Japanese attacked on December 8, 1941. His courage and gallantry during the defense of Bataan resulted in his being awarded the Silver Star Medal. He survived the Bataan Death March and spent nearly three years in Japanese prisoner of war camps. Survivors of the war camps praise him for the leadership, fortitude, and skill he demonstrated during the hard years of captivity. Lt. Polla died tragically in January 1945 after the Japanese ship on which he and other prisoners were being transported was bombed by American forces.

In addition to the Silver Star Medal, Polla's military medals and citations include the Purple Heart Medal, two Bronze Star Medals, the Prisoner of War Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze service star, the American Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge 1st Award, and the Philippine Defense Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this is a fitting tribute to a man who served his country with the utmost dedication and bravery. The Lieutenant Hector Polla Road will help us remember how he and so many other soldiers have given everything to defend our country in her time of need.

THE DEDICATION OF THE BROOKSVILLE CEMETERY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the work of a few historians in my Fifth Congressional District of Florida. The hard work and detailed research of these individuals resulted in a gravesite in the Brooksville City Cemetery in my district being designated as a Historical Landmark in the State of Florida.

The oldest gravesite in the Brooksville City Cemetery belongs to a woman named Char-

lotte Wynn Pyles Crum who was a member of an early Florida pioneering family and was killed shortly after the close of the Second Seminole Indian War.

Ms. Crum was traveling in the Brooksville area in 1842 along with her daughter and granddaughter when their group was fired upon by a band of Seminole Indians who were unaware of the war's end. All survived the attack except for Ms. Crum, whose death received sensationalized attention.

After much research about Ms. Crum's unusual death, the Division of Historical Resources within the Florida Department of State declared Ms. Crum's gravesite a Historical Landmark. At a ceremony this weekend, the cemetery will unveil a plaque in honor of the gravesite's distinction.

The Brooksville City Cemetery is in its own right a historical site because it is the final resting place for soldiers killed in the Civil War, the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and other national conflicts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring the cemetery, the work of the Florida Historical Resources Division and all those who made this weekend's dedication possible and brought Ms. Crum's gravesite the distinction it deserves.

HONORING GLEN L. EBERLY FOR LIFELONG CONTRIBUTION TO NORTHWEST INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I rise today to honor Glen L. Eberly for his lifelong contribution to the residents of Northwest Indiana, especially the Town of Dyer. Glen is one of the most dedicated, distinguished and committed citizens I have had the pleasure of knowing.

On Thursday, May 8, 2003, the Dyer Chamber of Commerce will host a roast in recognition of Glen's honorable service and the uncompromising loyalty he has displayed to the residents of Dyer. The community could not have picked a more appropriate date to roast Glen, as May 8th was the birth date of one of this Nation's most highly regarded presidents, Harry S Truman. Like President Truman, Glen possesses the qualities of a strong work ethic, coupled with honesty and integrity. Additionally, May 8th will forever be a notable date in history for me personally, because on May 8, 1984, I won my first democratic primary for United States Congress.

Born January 13, 1930, Glen and his family moved to Dyer 8 years later. He graduated from Dyer High School and served his country for 2 years in the United States Air Force. He went on to attend Ball State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in education. Glen began his teaching career in 1953 at Dyer High School, where he taught history. In 1961, Glen received his master's degree in education from Purdue University and continued his career at Dyer High School as a guidance counselor. In 1968, Glen was named assistant principal at Lake Central High School and subsequently became principal.

In addition to his love for education, Glen has demonstrated a sincere affection for the community in which he lives. Thus, Glen has served as a member of the Dyer Town Council for three terms. While Glen has dedicated considerable time and energy to his work, he has always made an extra effort to give back to the community. He is a charter member of the Dyer Noon Lions Club and is a past member of the Dyer Evening Lions Club. Additionally, Glen is a charter member of the Dyer Jaycees and is a charter member of the Dyer Historical Society and currently serves as its president. Glen has served the communities of Dyer, St. John and Schererville in various administrative capacities since 1984 and has been the Town Council Coordinator for the Town of Dyer since 1992. Though Glen is dedicated to his career and the community of Dyer, he has never limited his time and love for his family. Glen and his wife, Charlotte, have been happily married for 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, Glen has truly dedicated his life to the Town of Dyer, as well as all of Northwest Indiana. He is one of the finest gentlemen I know. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. Glen Eberly for his outstanding devotion to Indiana's First Congressional District. His unselfish and lifelong dedication to those in need is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent him in Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW YORK KENTUCKY DERBY WIN- NER—SAKATOGA STABLE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the victors of the Kentucky Derby. On Saturday, May 3, the veteran jockey Jose Santos rode the gelding Funny Cide in the 129th running of the Kentucky Derby at the Louisville, Kentucky racetrack. Owned by Sakatoga Stable in Sackets Harbor, New York and trained by Barclay Tagg, Funny Cide is the first New York bred horse to win the Kentucky Derby and the first gelding to win the Derby since 1929. This is not only a victory for the owners, trainer, and rider of Funny Cide, but the entire State of New York and I wish them continued success.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER JIM KELLEY

HON. BOB BEAUPREZ

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great man, Chief Warrant Officer Jim Kelley. Jim is remembered as a loving husband, wonderful father and a lifelong friend to many. Jim was an example to us all leading his life with compassion and dedication in all that he did.

A member of the 192nd Assault Helicopter Company, Jim served his tour in Vietnam 1969 through 1970. He gave thirty-three years

of service in the Air National Guard at Buckley, in Aurora, Colorado. Upon his retirement from service Jim was awarded the Legion of Merit, the highest military honor given during peacetime. I am thankful for the bravery Jim displayed in his service to our nation and the state of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor today to speak in memory of Jim Kelley, a noble cowboy that will be forever remembered for the dedication and bravery he displayed in his defense of America's freedom. He epitomizes the best of our country by demonstrating courage, selfless service and honor in abundance. He was a man of principle and courage; every life he touched is blessed for knowing this hero.

IN PRAISE OF MOTHERS

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, there are 435 of us in the United States House of Representatives. We come from almost every imaginable race, religion, creed and family background. Our political persuasions run the gamut of the American experience, and we sometimes seem to have 435 distinctly different viewpoints on any given issue.

Yet every one of us in the House—indeed, everyone on Capitol Hill—has at least one thing in common, and we cherish it most dearly. We all are the sons and daughters of the mothers who gave us life, who did their best to nurture and teach us, protect and care for us. For each of us, no matter how close or distant it since has become, that mother-and-child bond was the first formative influence on the people we were to become.

That bond and formative influence is as strong as ever for me. I am incredibly fortunate to have the warm affection and sage advice of my Mother still in my life. I was the sixth of Regina Otter's nine children. Not a day goes by that I don't draw inspiration from her physical, mental and spiritual strength after 88 years in this world. Her example of faith, charity, hard work, selfless dedication to family and friends and individual responsibility remains the standard by which I judge myself. I will forever fall short.

Perhaps more of our public policy debates should be infused with the wisdom of our mothers. Would we behave as selfishly, as myopically, if at crucial moments we recalled what Mom would want? Would we feel so compelled to seek out the political benefit, to place the short-term advantage over the long-term good, if Mom were there to remind us—sweetly but firmly—of the simple but profound truths of right and wrong?

Those of us in public life sometimes fall into the trap of believing our own press clippings—at least the positive ones. We think ourselves grand, elected by the good people of the world's oldest democracy, entrusted with the will of the greatest nation on Earth. At such times we would do well to remember the words of George Bernard Shaw, who said, "Perhaps the greatest social service that can be rendered by anybody to the country and to mankind is to bring up a family."

Mothers do that.

Yes, fathers also are incredibly important to strong families. Despite decades of social ex-

perimentation, research and analysis, no sound substitute has been found for the values, structured growth and sense of mutual dependence one finds in a traditional family unit for those fortunate enough to have it.

But make no mistake: Mothers are the anchors holding families in place against the gales, and the engines that enable them to progress toward their goals even through stormy seas. They are the lodestar on which we all depend to find our way through life. They are the shining examples of compassion and love to which we all aspire. And they are the souls of frail humanity who evoke the best from us when times are at their worst.

So on this Mother's Day, and every day, take some time to honor the one who made you who you are. Whether they are with you still or passed to a better place, the gesture will be noticed and appreciated. And you will be a better person for it.

Thank you, Mom.

TRIBUTE TO KARL SIEGFRIED

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Karl Siegfried, a constituent of mine from New Port Richey, FL, who received a VITA Wireless Samaritan Award last month.

VITA, which is Latin for "life", is the name of the award given by the national Wireless Foundation to people who use wireless communication to contact authorities and ask for help in emergency situations.

While driving to work, Mr. Siegfried heard reports, on the radio, of a kidnapping that took place the night before. Mr. Siegfried identified the vehicle while sitting at the stoplight and then used wireless technology to identify the location of the kidnapper for emergency personnel.

His heroic efforts, which quite possibly saved the life of another individual, are certainly something to be admired and I am proud to have a person like him as a constituent of mine.

In recent years, cellular phones and wireless communication devices have become common fixtures in our society but the good-natured concern for your neighbor has waned. I am glad to see an organization like VITA honoring those who put their communication devices to work for the good of others.

I thank Mr. Siegfried for what he did, I thank VITA for honoring him, and I thank them both on behalf of the city of New Port Richey and communities all over the country.

A TRIBUTE TO MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC POWER PRODUCTS, INC., WARRENDALE, PA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc., a leading manufacturer

of equipment to major North American electric utilities and independent power producers, as they dedicate their new headquarters building in Warrendale, Pennsylvania.

Mitsubishi Electric Power Products (MEPPI) has been a positive force for economic development in the Fourth district and has contributed over \$20 million in direct foreign investment since establishing their Warrendale campus in 1989.

As MEPPI has expanded their operations, they have included western Pennsylvania residents in their success. As the largest Japanese affiliated corporation in Allegheny County, MEPPI has grown from an organization with just a handful of employees to a company with a workforce of over 200 today. 97% of MEPPI's main product line, large power circuit breakers, is now manufactured in Warrendale. Made in Warrendale products are exported to several foreign markets including Canada, Mexico, Australia, the United Kingdom, and South America.

MEPPI technologies include Flexible AC Transmission Systems (FACTS). FACTS technologies significantly improve the capacity and reliability of the existing electrical transmission grid. Low environmental impact technologies such as FACTS do not necessitate the construction of new power transmission lines—a contentious process that often results in the takings of public and private lands.

MEPPI has also been an active participant in our community as demonstrated by their financial and organizational support for several very worthy western Pennsylvania philanthropic groups.

Please join me in congratulating Mitsubishi Electric Power Products as they expand their Warrendale campus and continue to involve Pennsylvanians in their company's success.

HONORING HENRY COVELLO

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to correct an extension of remarks I submitted May 1, 2003. I would like to apologize to Henry Covello for inadvertently saying that he would receive a Purple Heart "posthumously." I should have said "belatedly."

Mr. Covello served our country in World War Two as a young man. His honor and bravery earned him a Purple Heart for his service in the war. His lifelong dedication to the United States Army is reflected by the prestige of the Purple Heart, among the highest honors an American citizen can receive. Following his service in World War Two, Mr. Covello went off to serve in Korea where he earned his second Purple Heart. I am proud to tell my colleagues that last weekend Mr. Covello received his third Purple Heart.

Mr. Covello served in the United States Army with the 82nd Airborne Division 504th Parachute Regiment, the 5th Airborne Ranger Co. 25th Division, and D Company 19 Regiment 24th Division. He served for nearly 25 years in the Army before permanently retiring to Worcester, Massachusetts.

Mr. Covello is an example for all Americans. Devoting himself to our armed forces, Mr. Covello's awards are the sign of a grateful nation. His service in the fight against tyranny and oppression should not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to Mr. Covello, and to all of our veterans, for bravely fighting to protect our security and liberty. I am confident that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in thanking Mr. Covello for his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Wednesday, May 7, 2003, the House voted on two amendments by Mr. BELL of Texas to H.R. 766, the Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2003. On House rollcall votes No. 165 and No. 166, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MCMORRAN OF LAKELAND, FL

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of a great American who died last month after 113 years of life.

At the time of his death John McMorran of Lakeland, FL, which lies partially in my Fifth Congressional District, was the oldest living American man and the fourth-oldest person in the world.

Born June 19, 1889, in a Michigan log cabin, John McMorran considered coffee his elixir and quit cigars at the tender age of 97. He retired at 84 after working in a munitions factory, delivering milk, and delivering mail and moved to Florida to enjoy his retirement.

More than 30 years later he was still enjoying life, friends, and his family, who all said he was a happy man who lived a great life.

Mr. McMorran had a 59-year-old grandson and a 35-year-old great-granddaughter and one great-great-grandson!

He was born the year that the Oklahoma Land Rush took place, 14 when the Wright Brothers made their historic first flight at Kitty Hawk, and too old for the draft in World War I.

Mr. McMorran was there for all the advancements and innovations of the Twentieth Century. He knew life before and after cars, before and after electricity in homes, before and after computers, cell phones, the Internet. After 113 years of life there's not much he missed out on.

I am proud to speak before the House today about John McMorran and commemorate his long, successful life.

SUSTAINING AN AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, later this month, the U.S. will welcome President Note of the Marshall Islands as he visits our country. His visit here will coincide with the Bush Administration's transmittal to Congress of the document that governs the bilateral relationship enjoyed by our nations. This little known treaty embodies the best of U.S. diplomacy and strategic policy in recent decades. Ronald Reagan was President and the Democrats controlled both House of Congress when a bipartisan majority of both Houses approved the Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and two Pacific island micro-states.

The treaty of free association between the United States, Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia ended more than four decades of United Nations trust territory status for the islands, and these new nations, under new flags, themselves then became members of the United Nations. Not only was this a good model for decolonization of dependent territories, but the compact also preserved U.S. strategic interests in the islands. Under the treaty, an area of ocean as large as the continental United States, with strategically located islands stretching from the mid-Pacific to the Asian rim, remains foreclosed in perpetuity to the military forces of any nation other than the United States.

U.S. strategic interest in the Marshall Islands began in 1946 when the U.S. conducted its first atmospheric nuclear weapons test at Bikini. During the next decade over 67 tests were conducted, leaving a legacy of injuries to people and contamination of homelands that is still being resolved through claims settlement proceedings authorized by Congress under the compact. Amazingly, the islanders suffered greatly but consider themselves survivors rather than just victims, U.S. allies rather than just a subjugated people.

In addition nuclear test sites in the islands, Kwajalein Missile Range in the Marshall Islands was perhaps the most vital facility in the U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile development program, a centerpiece of U.S. nuclear deterrence that prevented the Cold War from turning into nuclear winter. Renamed the U.S. Army Ronald Reagan Missile Test Range, Kwajalein played an indispensable role in the Strategic Defense Initiative that helped bring about disarmament and end the Soviet empire.

To preserve the compact's success and the underlying strategic interests, Congress has to renew the economic assistance provisions of the compact that expires this year. The Bush Administration has consulted with Congress about renewal terms in a bipartisan spirit, and has addressed concerns raised by GAO about fiscal accountability for the island governments, as well tightening up controls on migration between the islands and the mainland.

Free association is based on separate sovereignty, nationality and citizenship, and is free because any party to the compact can terminate it in favor of full independence at any time. Thus, it is not some screw scheme

of co-mingled nationality or neo-colonial entanglement. Indeed, the whole point of free association is that it continues as long as it serves the mutual interest of the parties. Clearly, from a strategic point of view alone, U.S. interests preclude letting the compact lapse.

Moreover, the islands have been good allies, reliably voting with the U.S. in the U.N. on important issues. Under the compact, islanders are eligible for service in the U.S. military, and both Marshall Islanders and Micronesians have fought with the 3d Infantry in the streets of Baghdad as comrades in arms with American soldiers.

This is an alliance that represents the best of American diplomacy, and the compact also demonstrates that America deals honorably with small nations that share our values. Obviously, there are other priorities, but the Administration should send the treaty renewal agreements to Congress without further delay, and Congress should renew the Compact of Free Association before it expires, thereby sustaining a bipartisan foreign policy and national security success story.

A TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE CORRINE HAGANS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lucille Corrine Hagans in recognition of her commitment to helping others throughout her eighty-five years.

Ms. Hagans was born to the late Samuel and Hagar Cohen. Lucille and her family left the hills of Savannah, GA, and migrated to Coatesville, PA. In 1948, she moved to Brooklyn, NY. Her home was always filled with guests and she did not mind opening up her doors to those in need.

Ms. Hagans has been a positive role model for the lives of many. There were times she traveled through the snow and the rain to make sure that everyone in her household had food to eat and a place to lay their heads. She has always been a hard and diligent worker.

A great seamstress and milliner, Ms. Hagans has sewn for many people all over New York City. She has an innate gift of teaching. God has equipped her to help educate others. Ms. Hagans is also a clothing designer in her own right.

Ms. Hagans is a woman of character and standards. She lives a holy life and is a woman of prayer and consecration. She introduced her children and grandchildren to the Lord by taking them to church and teaching them the word of God. She has taught the women in her family to strive for what they want in this life. And, she has been a role model and a woman of integrity.

Mr. Speaker, through her longstanding commitments and her dedication to teaching and spreading the Lord's word, Lucille Corrine Hagans has shown that she is clearly devoted to her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman.

COAL MINE DUST RULES MUST BE WITHDRAWN

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker. It is with alarm that today members of the United Mine Workers of America rally on the steps of the State Capitol in Charleston, West Virginia, to protest one of the greatest threats to their health and safety in many years.

It is unfortunate, but true, that this threat comes from their own Federal Government, in the form of proposed rules issued by the Mine Health and Safety Administration (MSHA) that would increase fourfold the amount of dust levels permitted in underground coal mines.

As a May 6, 2003, editorial in the Beckley, West Virginia, Register Herald pointed out, a recent study conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and MSHA already casts doubt on the efficacy of existing coal mine dust compliance rules. The editorial points out that about 1,000 miners still die a year from the dreaded black lung disease which is contracted as a result of sustained contact with coal mine dust. And as the editorial notes: "We need to dig for answers quickly, so the next century of coal mining can be accomplished without the threat of black lung disease." Following my remarks I ask that the editorial be printed in its entirety.

Yet, despite this study and a whole host of other evidence, MSHA on March 6th of this year published two proposed rules which would dramatically harm the health of our Nation's coal miners and conflict with both the letter and intent of the landmark Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.

This week, in a letter I wrote to Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, I asked that these proposed rules be immediately withdrawn. There is no credible reason why any alleged "mine health" regulation should allow permissible dust levels to increase from the current 2 milligrams/cubic meter standards to 8 milligrams as would be possible under the March 6th dust rules.

The Labor Department and its agency, MSHA, should heed the call of the Register Herald editorial and take actions to eliminate the threat of black lung disease rather than allow increased dust levels in the Nation's coal mines.

BLACK LUNG: 30 YEARS AFTER PROTECTIONS, DISEASE AND QUESTIONS REMAIN

Under the Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969, miners are to be exposed to no more than 2 milligrams of coal dust per cubic meter of air over eight hours—equal to a debris speck the size of a pinhead.

These federal coal-dust controls were designed to protect miners so black lung no longer would be an occupational hazard.

So, 30 years later, have these restraints been successful in halting a disease that reduces the ability to breathe and leads to heart failure?

At first glance, that seems to be the case. But statistics sometimes can be as clear as mud.

According to the study conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration, black lung disease continues to develop in miners who have worked their entire careers under current, and supposedly acceptable, coal dust limits.

X-rays show that rates among miners with 20 years or less in the mines produce "no clear trend," the study said. Black lung "continues to occur among working coal miners, even among those first employed after the current federal exposure limit became effective" in 1972.

Even among surface miners, X-rays found that black lung occurred in 1.9 percent of cases.

Surface miners "had been thought not to have been at much risk because they work out in the open," noted Dr. E. Lee Petsonk, one of the study's authors and senior medical officer in the surveillance branch at the health institute's Division of Respiratory Disease Studies in Morgantown. "It is a finding of concern."

The \$64,000 question, then, is a simple "why?" Why do new cases of black lung disease continue to develop in miners when coal-dust limits established to protect miners have been in effect for more than 30 years?

Are the dust levels being complied with? Are the rules still not stringent enough? And why are surface miners developing black lung?

Answering these questions is vital, because about 1,000 miners die from black lung each year. Many of those are West Virginia miners.

Coal, we pointed out in this space yesterday, will be around for a while. By a most conservative estimate, there are at least 100 years of coal deposits still to mine.

We need to dig for answers quickly, so the next century of coal mining can be accomplished without the threat of black lung disease.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 378

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Heart of Florida Girl Scout Troop 378 in Citrus County, FL for their service to the community and to the people of my district.

The troop recently learned about the importance of voting and about the functions of American government as part of the "I-Count" Voter Education program and each Troop Member participating in the program received a patch upon completion.

Mr. Speaker, as you may know, those in the Girl Scout program measure their accomplishments and award merit based on the number of patches they accumulate. As part of earning this patch, the girls studied intently and listened to a speech I gave about the importance of voting—and how one vote can be the deciding factor in some instances.

It was when I spoke to the girls and had the chance to meet them and hear about all they had done in the community that I realized the tremendous amount of work they had done and their intense dedication to the Girl Scout program.

Mr. Speaker, let me briefly mention just a few of the things this group of girls has done throughout their years of involvement with this program.

As Daisies the girls learned to do crafts and learned the Girl Scout promise. They went on campouts, marched in parades and sang at Surry Place Nursing home.

As Brownies, the troop went to nursing homes to sing, volunteered at various events and continued to appear in local parades.

As Juniors, they collected old, unused cell phones to benefit battered women, helped at the local "Relay for Life," which benefits the American Cancer Society, and presented the local volunteer firefighters with cookies to thank them for their work in the community.

Now that the girls are Cadets they are still collecting cell phones and will be continuing their involvement in the "Relay for Life" program. This past Holiday Season they "Gift Adopted" a local under-privileged girl, and donated money and new gifts to make her Christmas brighter.

Currently they are saving the proceeds from the sale of their Girl Scout cookies for a trip to Savannah, GA to see where Juliette Gordon Low, the Girl Scout founder, was born.

Amber Auth, Nicole Bruno, Melissa Fonczak, Emily Stanton, Rebecca Rose, Kimberly Carbonari, Rebecca Morse, along with troop leader Mimi Rose and assistant troop leader Nora Auth, deserve to be commended for their service and dedication. I am proud to have them as my constituents and am honored to be their representation in Congress.

TRIBUTE TO MS. KATHERINE HALLBERG CELEBRATING THE FIRST PLACE WINNER OF THE 14TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL ART COMPETITION, AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Katherine Hallberg from Woodland Hills School District. Katherine is the top winner of the 2003 14th Congressional District High School Art Competition, An Artistic Discovery.

Katherine's acrylic painting entitled "Technicolor Portrait" was chosen from an outstanding collection of entries. Katherine is a young woman of considerable talent and is sure to have many successes in her future. The judges were very impressed by her use of light and shadow.

I look forward to seeing Katherine's artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol building along with the artwork of the other competition winners from across the country. I am pleased to be associated with Katherine's artistic talents.

Congratulations Katherine. I wish you all the best of luck in the future.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, three years ago, Mr. Chen Shui-bian was democratically elected President of the Republic of China on Taiwan. His election by the people of that island showed the world that democracy was alive and well and could easily thrive in a Chinese society like Taiwan.

During the last three years, President Chen and the people of Taiwan continue the practice of democracy in their country. Today Taiwan has free elections at every level, a free press, and the highest regard for human rights. Taiwan has set a good example for neighboring Asian nations, and other countries around the world, to follow.

President Chen has, on many occasions, stressed that Taiwan and neighboring countries must work together to discuss issues of mutual interests. Any progress toward improved relationships between nations along the Pacific Rim must ensure the interests of the 23 million people living in the Republic of China.

I have enjoyed working with Taiwan's Representative in Washington, Ambassador C.J. Chen. He and his aides do a good job of informing Congress of developments in Taiwan.

As the people of Taiwan prepare to celebrate their president's third anniversary in office, I hope Taiwan will find success in gaining observer status at the World Health Organization this May. As the outbreak of SARS threatens Asia and the world, Taiwan should be included in World Health Organization activities.

Secretary of State Colin Powell recently said, "infectious disease . . . requires an effective and coordinated response at local, national and international levels." SARS is a harsh reminder to the world that diseases know no border, and we must have an effective international coalition to combat SARS, and other infectious diseases we have yet to discover.

Taiwan has been affected by SARS; it is only right to include them in the global campaign against it.

I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the people of Taiwan for their continuing experiment with democracy. As we have noted before: in a democracy, it is not the first election that defines a democracy . . . it is all those that follow.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT WORKS SECURITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 866, the Wastewater Treatment Works Security Act of 2003, and I commend Chairman YOUNG for sponsoring this important legislation. H.R. 866 authorizes the EPA Administrator to issue grants for vulnerability assessments and security enhancements at our publicly owned treatment works facilities. In addition, the legislation calls on the Administrator to provide much needed technical assistance regarding security measures that can be made to our smaller publicly owned treatment works facilities, that is facilities that serve less than 20,000 people. Lastly, the bill provides critical funding for the improvement of the methodologies and tools used to carry out wastewater vulnerability assessments.

Mr. Speaker, ensuring that our wastewater treatment facilities are properly protected and secure is a crucial aspect of enhancing our Homeland Security. A terrorist attack on a

public treatment facility could be devastating. I commend Chairman YOUNG for his hard work on this legislation, and his efforts to draw attention to the need to improve the security of wastewater treatment facilities.

HONORING CENTER HIGH SCHOOL'S "TOP 10" SENIORS

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the talents and efforts of Center High School's "Top Ten" Academic Seniors for the 2002–2003 school year. These students have an unweighted, cumulative grade point average of between 3.88 and 4.0. These outstanding students have been accepted at the University of California—Los Angeles, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC San Diego, UC Berkeley, University of the Pacific, Stanford, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and Brigham Young University.

Each of these students were honored at a scholarship dinner on Monday, April 28, 2003, where they were each presented with \$200 scholarships made possible by community donations, and publicly recognized for their academic achievements.

I am very proud of these young men and woman. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Valerie Vinco, Navneet Riar, Tara Dougherty, Natalie Ramirez, Erin Baccay, Dieu-Huyen Nguyen, Adam Luber, Maybelline Disuano, Kimberly Johnson, and Sabre Shin.

WISCONSIN THANKS JUSTICE WILLIAM BABLITCH FOR 35 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE STATE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to honor my friend and former colleague, Justice William A. Bablitch, as he celebrates 35 years of service to the people of Wisconsin.

Long known as a vigilant champion of the underprivileged, Justice Bablitch began serving others early in life. At the age of twenty-two, he traveled to Liberia in Western Africa with the Peace Corps, and spent his tour teaching young pupils in a local elementary school. Struck by the conditions that his students endured daily, he returned to his home state impassioned to work on behalf of the public and to study law at the University of Wisconsin.

After receiving his Juris Doctorate in 1968, the Justice spent three years as a District Attorney, during the tumultuous times of the student-led Vietnam protests. By working with the administration of the University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point and the Sheriff's Department of Stevens Point, he helped ensure that in the wake of the Kent State Massacre violence or bloodshed did not erupt at UWSP.

In 1973, Bill turned his talents to representing the people of Portage County in the Wisconsin State Senate where I had the es-

teemed pleasure of serving with him. A strong advocate for civil and human rights, Senator Bablitch pushed for legislation reform in discrimination, sexual assault, child abuse, and divorce law. His role as majority leader paved the way for public accessibility to Wisconsin government by creation of Wisconsin's Open Meeting and campaign reform laws.

Always a defender of social justice, Justice Bablitch's career has been highlighted by his twenty years in the Wisconsin Supreme Court where he has fought for the protection of consumers, the environment, and a patient's right to know.

While away from the office, Bill spends time with his wife, Anne, daughter, Bulleh, and granddaughters, Layteh and Nancy, at his homes in Northern Wisconsin and Hawaii. Whether fly-fishing with family and friends or cooking a meal for them, he has filled the lives of those around him with laughter and happiness.

Justice William Bablitch's retirement is certainly well deserved, but his leadership and passion for serving the best interests of Wisconsin citizens will be truly missed. Congratulations, my friend.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOUISE DANKBERG ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Louise Dankberg on the occasion of her retirement. Ms. Dankberg is an incomparable leader who has consistently contributed to our community for over three decades in notable ways.

After 34 years, serving in a variety of positions, Ms. Dankberg is retiring from the New York State Department of Labor. Among her many achievements during her tenure, Ms. Dankberg has served as Loaned Executive to State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) of United Way, where she raised over \$750,000 in six campaigns in 51 state agencies. As Executive Administrative Assistant to the New York City Director, Ms. Dankberg was responsible for major decisions of staff changes and successfully developed communications between branch offices and district managers. She also supervised 125 professional and support staff while serving as Job Service Supervisor. In addition, Ms. Dankberg acted to resolve issues, train new staff, and corresponded on behalf of the Governor and Commissioner of Labor in her role as Unemployment Insurance Supervisor of Telephone Call Center.

Through a variety of professional and civic activities, Ms. Dankberg has touched countless lives in the New York area. Ms. Dankberg has been very active within the New York State government. She has been the Female District Leader of the 74th Assembly District since 1993 and a New York State County Committee Member since 1973. She served as the Beth R. Cosnow Memorial Chairperson and as a New York State Committeewoman in 1993, and worked as a delegate to Supreme Court Judicial Conventions from 1971 to 1993. For over thirty years she has been a liaison with elected officials for the community

and has served various positions in the Samuel J. Tilden Democratic Club, including president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, and membership and program committees chairperson.

Ms. Dankberg has also been a campaign manager for various judicial campaigns for Supreme and Civil Courts, as well as a member for the 14th Congressional District Caucus and the Policy, Executive, and New York County Democratic Committees. Her contributions to the community include numerous community forums, street fairs, and political debates.

An eminent civic leader, Ms. Louise Dankberg has held positions in many organizations, such as the International Association of Personnel in Employment Security, the Public Employees Federation, of which she was a founding member, the Organization of Management Confidential Employees, the Center for Women in Government, Mission Employment Jobathons, and the Job Service Improvement Program. Through these various associations, Ms. Dankberg has played a significant role in aiding the community with issues concerning employment.

In addition to being a leader of organizations, Ms. Dankberg is a staunch community advocate, bringing local issues to surface. She is a founding member of the Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council and the East Side Rezoning Alliance. Ms. Dankberg is also an active member of Gramercy Neighborhood Associates, the Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association, the 22nd Street Block Association, and the Manhattan Neighborhood Council. She is a co-chairperson of the Neighborhood Advisory Board, which donates to target groups through the New York City Division of Youth and Community Development.

Fortunately for all of us, Ms. Dankberg is merely retiring from the New York State Department of Labor and not from public life.

In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Louise Dankberg on the occasion of her retirement.

TRIBUTE TO LUIS A. ROSERO

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Luis A. Rosero a dedicated and noteworthy public servant from Queens, New York.

Luis A. Rosero engages our society with enthusiasm and vigor. From humble beginnings in Queens, NY, Luis Rosero has dedicated himself to a career in public service, protecting the rights of all citizens in the democratic process. Luis fights for what is good in our world.

Since my arrival in Congress at the beginning of this year, Luis has ably served the people of the First Congressional District of New York as my District Office Director. He has offered his years of experience to develop a new office, train new employees and manage the multi-faceted challenges of a busy New York office. Luis has offered comfort and assistance to my constituents, whether they need intervention with a federal agency, an answer to a vexing question of policy or someone to simply hear their concerns.

Luis' passion and energy have also made him a known and appreciated individual to his neighbors in his home community, and they now call him back to represent them as a New York City Councilman.

Many individuals aspire to make positive changes in the community in which they live, though some fail in their efforts through a lack of dedication and perseverance. Luis has the qualities of a leader and a deep belief in our system of government: I believe he will not fail to meet the demands of a public he has dedicated himself to serve.

I extend my best wishes and support for Luis Rosero in all of his future endeavors. I am sorry to see him leave my staff, but I am grateful for his efforts and I know he will go on to do great things. I wish Luis many years of good fortune and service to the public.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing Luis A. Rosero the best of luck in all of his endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL SCHOOL NURSE DAY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge May 7th as National School Nurse Day.

There are approximately 60,000 registered nurses in public school systems across the country caring for more than 52 million students. Professional school nurses strengthen and facilitate our educational process by improving and protecting the health status of children and youth through prevention, detection and correction methods. School nurses work diligently in the school environment, serving not only our children and youth but also their teachers, community, state, and nation to provide valuable school health services.

School nurses have assisted our children for many years, and The National Association of School Nurses, the professional organization of school nurses, is celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary this year.

Frequently, the only health care attention a child receives is through a school nurse. Our nation's children face an increasing number of chronic and severe health problems, from diabetes to asthma, obesity, depression and other mental and physical health problems. School nurses assist these children with their health problems so children can remain in school and achieve success.

School nurses also care for a large number of children with chronic and severe health problems, including children in wheelchairs, on ventilatory support or with special health procedures. School nurses provide direct services to them from initial assessment and diagnosis to treatment and maintenance so disabled children can learn and achieve academic success.

After September 11th, school nurses had to take on additional new roles. If another bioterrorism event takes place, school nurses may be the first health care responders that will cope with symptoms of a chemical, radiological or other event as well as providing the necessary treatments and emergency evacuations.

School nurses are unsung heroes as they both effectively and efficiently meet the daily and emergency needs of the student populations they serve.

Professional school nurses have touched the lives of students throughout our great nation for over a century, and we commend them on their continued contributions to the development of our young people.

I urge all Americans to recognize the important contributions that school nurses make toward the health and well-being of our children and youth. National School Nurse Day is a wonderful way to commend them on their years of diligent efforts to keep our children healthy and safe in school.

CLEAN SMOKESTACKS ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am again joining with Representative BOEHLERT in introducing the "Clean Smokestacks Act of 2003." This important legislation will finally clean up the nation's dirty, antiquated power plants.

When I originally introduced the "Clean Smokestacks Act" with Representative BOEHLERT in the 106th Congress, we had a modest beginning. We had a total of 15 cosponsors and little attention.

But by the end of the 107th Congress, the bill's supporters had grown to 135 House members. Senator JEFFORDS had successfully reported the companion legislation, the "Clean Power Act." And even the Bush Administration, at least in rhetoric, recognizes that we urgently need to clean up these power plants.

Electricity generation is our nation's single largest source of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Nationally, power plants are responsible for about 35 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, 64 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions, 23 percent of nitrogen oxides emissions and 33 percent of mercury emissions.

These four pollutants are the major cause of some of the most serious environmental problems the nation faces, including acid rain, smog, respiratory illness, mercury contamination, and global warming. If we are going to improve air quality and reduce global warming, we must curb the emissions from these power plants.

When the original Clean Air Act was enacted in 1970, the electric utility industry argued that stringent controls should not be imposed on the oldest, dirtiest plants since they would soon be replaced by new state-of-the-art facilities. Although Congress acceded to these arguments and shielded old power plants from the law's requirements, many of these facilities—which were already old in 1970—are still in use. In some cases, power plants from 1922 are still in operation and have never had to meet the environmental requirements that a new facility would.

As a result, a single plant in the Midwest can emit as much NO_x pollution as the entire state of Massachusetts.

The Clean Smokestacks Act says it is time to clean up these aging plants. The Act sets strong emissions reduction requirements for all four of the key pollutants from power plants,

and it finally sets a deadline for old plants to install modern pollution controls. The Act allows for emissions trading to increase flexibility and reduce costs, where trading won't cause environmental harm. And the Clean Smokestacks Act promotes cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, which help reduce pollution and save consumers money.

This approach just makes sense. Because these power plants are so old and so dirty, cleaning them up provides tremendous benefits at reasonable costs. These requirements are one of the cheapest ways to get significant air quality improvements. And they finally provide a level playing field for new and old plants.

At the same time, this approach gives industry the benefit of increasing regulatory certainty by targeting all four pollutants at once. Industry can make better investments if it knows what all of the emissions requirements will be over the next decade or so.

Finally, the Clean Smokestacks Act recognizes that we need cleaner air, not regulatory relaxation, so it leaves the current Clean Air Act in place.

Since we first introduced this bill, the President has unveiled a competing proposal, the "Clear Skies Initiative" or CSI, which he claims targets the same goal of cleaning up power plants. It's important to recognize, however, that the Clean Smokestacks Act and CSI are not similar proposals with different levels of stringency. Rather, they have fundamentally different purposes.

The Bush Administration claims that their CSI proposal also targets the problem of aging power plants and provides certainty to the industry. It does neither, but it does rewrite significant portions of the Clean Air Act to weaken or delete important environmental protections.

In contrast to the Clean Smokestacks Act, the CSI proposal does not guarantee that all outdated power plants will ever install modern air pollution controls. And, because CSI does not address carbon dioxide emissions, it cannot promise to provide the industry with certainty regarding future federal or state emissions reductions requirements.

What CSI does do is rewrite key provisions of the Clean Air Act. CSI would repeal a requirement to reduce mercury emissions, limit the rights of states to protect themselves against out-of-state pollution, extend deadlines for areas to achieve clean air, and weaken protection for national parks, among other rollbacks. The real purpose of CSI appears to be weakening current Clean Air Act requirements for power plants and other sources, under cover of some looser and later emissions requirements. Not surprisingly, CSI is supported by industry, but is almost universally opposed by environmental groups.

So let there be no mistake—the Clean Smokestacks Act in the House, and the Clean Power Act in the Senate, are the proposals to strengthen the Clean Air Act by finally closing the loophole for old dirty power plants and addressing all four pollutants they emit.

In conclusion, let me commend Rep. BOEHLERT and all of the supporters of this legislation. I am pleased to be part of this bipartisan, bicameral approach to strengthening the Clean Air Act and protecting our environment.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA J. PETERSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paula J. Peterson, the Monterey District Park Superintendent for California Department of Parks and Recreation. She is retiring after more than 30 years of dedicated service with the State of California, and in recognition thereof, she is deserving of special public recognition and the highest commendations.

Paula attended Chico State University where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Recreation Administration in 1971, and a Master of Arts degree with distinction in Recreation Administration in 1977. She then embarked on her distinguished state service career with the California Department of Parks and Recreation in 1972 as the first full-time, female civil service State Park Ranger in the history of California at Big Basin State Park in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Based on her experience and performance, she continued to receive be promoted through ranks, ultimately attaining her current position.

Paula Peterson has played a lead role in interpreting and protecting the cultural and natural resources of California. Her outstanding leadership and organizational skills have touched the entire state park system.

Paula was responsible for the first publication of the "Defensive Tactics for Instructors" handbook in 1980. She coordinated the first Hispanic Heritage Week observance in Monterey in 1990. She received the 1996 Monterey District Safety Award after leading and maintaining an excellent District safety program. She was the recipient of the Department's 1999 Olmsted Award for Leadership and Vision based on her ability to motivate and inspire others to positive action; and her long-term commitment to park ideals and values.

Paula blazed the trail for other woman in the peace officer ranks within the State Park System and has been a positive and strong role model. She is commended for her extraordinary commitment and dedication and represents the highest ideals of the State Park professional.

Mr. Speaker, in the course of their careers, few people are fortunate to be associated with an individual whose personal and professional accomplishments have been an inspiration to so many. Because of Paula Peterson, I can count myself among the fortunate.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS, FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, the following high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and

leaders with their scholastic achievements, community services, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2003
Katelynn Florentino, Freedom High School.

Chelsea Knepper, Manzano High School.
Victoria Soto, St Pius X High School.
Jodieleigh Sierbert, Rio Grande High School.

Travis Green, Sandia Prep High School.
Darlene Lopez, Albuquerque Charter Vocational School.

William Wainslow, Eldorado High School.
Jonathan Berch, Estancia High School.
Emily Frances Clauss, Albuquerque Academy.

Jessika Cremer, La Cueva High School.
Sharada Bean, Albuquerque High School.
Laura Thompson, Southwest Secondary Learning Center.

Julian Gomez, Los Lunas High School.
Monica Maestas, Valley High School.
Renee Giraudo, Cibola High School.
Finola Perry, New Futures School.
Taylor Kidwell, Hope Christian School.
Natalie Irene Mora, West Mesa High School.

Roseamond Stewart, Del Norte High School.

Brittany Allcorn, Moriarty High School.
Elisha Lovato, Bernalillo High School.

Joseph McCarthy, Hope Connection High School.

Ashley Ellison, Nuestros Valores Charter High School.

Marcus Romero, Mountainair High School.
Kaycee Kloeppel, Highland High School.

Paul Tafoya, Sierra Alternative High School.

Katherine Dahl, Cibola High School.
Dominic Montoya, Albuquerque Evening High School.

Catherine Sandoval, Menaul School.
Milessa Muchmore, Sandia High School.

Amber Marquez, Evangel Christian Academy.

CONGRATULATIONS WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY'S WILLIAM E. BIVEN FORENSIC SOCIETY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Western Kentucky University's William Biven Forensic Society as its members celebrate their national and international championships.

The students and coaches have had an extremely successful year, winning the International Forensic Association Championship, the 2003 American Forensic Association National Championship, the Delta Sigma Rho—Tau Kappa Alpha National Championship and, most recently, the National Forensic Association Individual Events Championship. Western's forensics' program has a legacy of championships, and this year's team has again debated its way to the top.

This evening at Western, the students will present some of their award-winning performances. I hope they enjoy this opportunity to

relax and share their talents with the university and the Bowling Green community. They have certainly earned the chance to celebrate and showcase their work.

Congratulations to the students and coach Judy Woodring of the Western Kentucky University forensics team. Their dedicated work and achievements has brought them and their university recognition and pride.

A BILL TO ENSURE THAT THE IRS ACCURATELY ACCOUNT FOR FICA TAXES PAID BY EMPLOYERS ON EMPLOYEE'S TIP INCOME

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleague from Tennessee, Mr. TANNER, to introduce the Tip Tax Fairness Act, a bill to require the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to accurately account for FICA taxes paid by employers on employee's tip income.

As we all know, many employees in the service sector of the business community earn a substantial portion of their income from tips. Recognizing this, Congress passed legislation years ago requiring employers and employees to pay FICA payroll taxes on tip income. This ensures that an employee's total earnings are reflected in their Social Security wage history, which determines the employee's Social Security benefits upon retirement.

In the IRS's effort to collect the FICA taxes they believe is owed on unreported tips, the agency has created an aggregate method for assessing employers which is inconsistent with congressional intent. Congress did not intend FICA taxes to be paid on an aggregate basis, because earnings subject to FICA taxes are intended to be credited to an employee's Social Security wage history.

Under current law, employees are required to report all of their tips to their employer. The employer is required to send this information to the IRS, along with the employer and employee share of the FICA taxes owed. If the IRS believes the amount of tip income reported is not accurate the agency will audit the employer, bill the employer using an aggregate estimate, and collect the employer's portion of the FICA taxes. However, the agency does not credit the employee's Social Security wage history. By not doing so, the agency is disregarding one of the reasons Congress required employers to pay FICA taxes on tips.

Furthermore, this lack of accounting on the part of the IRS, and the use of aggregate estimates, creates a dramatic shift in the burden of tax collection. Under this method, it is the employer who must determine if there was underreporting of income, not the IRS, and the employer who must disprove an inaccurate assessment. Many service providers have expressed concerns that this shift in burden pits the employer against their own employees, effectively turning them into "tip police."

The bill Mr. TANNER and I are introducing today is a solution that we believe employees and employers can support. Simply stated,

this legislation requires the IRS to ensure that assessments paid by employers, for FICA taxes owed on unreported tips, are credited to each affected employee's Social Security wage history. As such, this measure requires the IRS to use FICA taxes as Congress intended.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this worthy legislation.

CHRIS KELLERMAN, A RECIPIENT OF THE BRONZE STAR

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chris Kellerman, a veteran of the Vietnam War who has been awarded the Bronze Star in recognition of his bravery and notorious achievement during ground operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam.

The Bronze Star Medal was established by Executive Order in 1944 and is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Army of the United States, distinguishes himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service.

Staff Sergeant Kellerman earned his medal by venturing into unknown territory and taking a risk that he did not have to take, possibly saving the lives of several of his fellow soldiers.

A testament to his dedication to our Armed Forces and his drive to always succeed, Staff Sergeant Kellerman achieved his rank in the Army in record time, rising to his position of leadership in two years time.

During his service in Vietnam from January 1968 through March 1969, his heroism was undeniable, as his acts of bravery during battle earned him not only the respect of his comrades and military honors.

Staff Sergeant Keller proved his dedication to his country and was honored only recently by the Defense Department with the medal he earned. I am proud to be able to honor him today on the floor of this body and am proud to call Staff Sergeant Kellerman a constituent and, Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking him for his service to this country.

CELEBRATING THE 380TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AVEDIS ZILDJIAN CYMBAL COMPANY

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, it is with enormous pride that I rise today in tribute to the Zildjian family of Massachusetts, whom we join today in marking an anniversary of an American success story. The Zildjian cymbal sets a standard for excellence—with skill, perseverance and devotion to family, employees and the community.

They arrived on our shores with an idea and a dream, and worked hard and smart to fulfill

it. Now musicians around the world—from symphony percussionists to R&B drummers—swear by K/Z HiHats and Remixes and enrich the quality of our lives every day through the gift of music. On Friday of this week, May 9, a variety of friends and admirers will gather at the company offices in the town of Norwell, Massachusetts, to celebrate the 380th anniversary of the Avedis Zildjian Cymbal Company.

Zildjian Cymbals is the oldest, continuously owned family business in the United States—now in its 74th year of operation. However, the firm has a history going back almost four centuries. Zildjian was originally founded by Avedis I, an alchemist and subject of the Ottoman Empire living in Constantinople in 1623. He created a process—still a Zildjian trademark—to treat metal alloys to create cymbals of superior clarity and quality. As a result of his discovery, he was given the title "Zildjian" or Cymbalsmith by the Sultan.

After three centuries of manufacturing cymbals in Constantinople, the family business relocated to Quincy, Massachusetts, largely at the behest of Avedis Zildjian III, who had immigrated to the United States in 1909 and went into business for himself. When it came time for him to take over the family business in Turkey, Avedis pushed for America as the company's home. Although the foundry's establishment coincided with the beginning of the Great Depression, devotion of the family and from some of the great musicians of his day, helped Avedis persevere. Eventually, the company flourished.

In 1972, Zildjian opened a new manufacturing facility in Norwell, Massachusetts where an untold number of cymbals have been created by more than 100 dedicated employees and sold to musicians in every genre in dozens of countries around the world. After handing over the reigns of the company in 1977 to his son, Armand, Avedis Zildjian passed away in 1979. Under Armand's leadership, Zildjian continued its leadership in the production of high quality cymbals and opened a drumstick factory in Alabama. In 1995, Zildjian became the first Percussion Company to obtain the ISO 9001 Quality Certification, a standard recognized around the globe for facilities that meet and exceed rigorous quality standards.

In 1999, yet another milestone was reached, as Armand Zildjian appointed his daughter, Craigie, to be the Chief Executive Officer, the first woman to hold that distinction since the entity's inception in 1623. With the passing of Armand Zildjian in 2002, Craigie Zildjian is poised to continue the Zildjian name brand and tradition of superior workmanship into the decades to come.

On May 9, 2003, a host of well wishers will join the entire Zildjian community and gather at the company headquarters to commemorate Zildjian's contribution to our universal heritage, our region's economy, the lives and livelihoods of its employees and the entrepreneurial spirit reflected in the evolution of this fine corporation. The festivities would doubtless have made Avedis Zildjian proud. And it is with equal pleasure that I enter this tribute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that this milestone is officially recognized and recorded in the official history of the United States of America.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL IN
ELDERSBURG, MD, RECOGNIZED
AS A GRAMMY SIGNATURE
SCHOOL FOR ITS OUTSTANDING
MUSIC EDUCATION

HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, Liberty High School in Eldersburg, Maryland and its Instrumental Music Director Joseph Fischer has been recognized as one of only 50 Grammy Signature Schools nationwide in 2003 for its outstanding music education. Along with the recognition, the Grammy Foundation awarded Liberty High School with \$1,000 toward its music education program.

The Grammy Foundation, a nonprofit arm of the Recording Academy, coordinates the Grammy Signature Schools recognition program for outstanding music education by public schools. Most of us are probably familiar with the Grammys awarded by the Recording Academy to outstanding recording artists. The Grammy Foundation is dedicated to engaging students of all ages through music and arts-based education programs. For more information about the Foundation and its programs, you can visit its website www.grammy.com. A list of all the winners is at www.grammy.com/foundation/signature_schools.html.

Liberty High School was one of 20,000 public high schools invited to submit detailed applications for the Grammy Signature Schools award.

Finalists for the Grammy Signature School award were determined on the basis of a scoring system applied and critiqued by a panel of top music educators and professionals. Finalists then had to submit additional documentation such as recordings of school concerts, sample concert programs and repertoire that were further reviewed by an independent screening committee.

As my colleagues are well aware, I was a scientist before I was elected to the Congress. However, I was also a teacher. I taught on the college level for more than 20 years. I support and applaud music education because it teaches participants the important life skills of discipline and team work. Liberty High School would not even have been considered as a Grammy Signature School without the leadership provided by its Instrumental Musical Director Joseph Fischer. It is the work of an excellent individual teacher, such as Mr. Fischer, that opens the door and inspires students to achieve success not just in their particular field of study, but in all future endeavors. I know that I am just echoing the gratitude of his students, their parents, faculty and administrators at Liberty High School when I salute Joseph Fischer.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION ACT
OF 2003

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Assault Weapons

Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003." This legislation will renew and strengthen the current assault weapons ban set to expire this Congress. I am joined by 68 of my colleagues in support of this legislation and overall goal of keeping illegal firearms out of the hands of criminals.

In September 2004, the assault weapons ban, which is supported by virtually every Federal, State and local law enforcement agency, is set to expire. Since its introduction in 1994, the ban has increased public safety and prevented dangerous weapons from falling into the hands of violent criminals, including gang members and terrorists. Unfortunately, even with its many successes, would-be criminals have demonstrated the ban's limitations.

A gun manufacturer's ability to slightly modify an assault weapon, and the sale of "parts kits" which permit criminals to assemble unlawful assault weapons, is a massive loophole in the current law, allowing these weapons to flood the market and jeopardize the lives of law enforcement officers.

Additional steps must be taken to address these types of problems. This legislation begins by improving upon the current definition of a semi-automatic assault weapon to include any semi-automatic weapon that accepts a detachable ammunition magazine and possesses, a single, narrowly defined, assault weapon characteristic. Furthermore, it contains a provision that makes it more difficult for individuals to purchase or sell parts that make it possible to convert a lawful semi-automatic weapon into an unlawful assault weapon.

During the 2000 election cycle, then-Governor Bush made a campaign promise to support the extension of the ban, as did Attorney General Ashcroft during his 2001 Senate confirmation hearing. I am glad to hear of their support and look forward to working with them in the upcoming months. I can think of no legitimate reason for civilians to have access to military-style weapons that are useless for recreational activities and only serve the purpose of furthering unwanted criminal activity.

IMPROVING EDUCATION RESULTS
FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1350) to reauthorize the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1350, to reauthorize the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Although I have outstanding concerns about this bill that I will continue to work with my colleagues to resolve, this bill responds to the needs of special education teachers and the children they serve. It also authorizes much-needed funding levels for our States and local school districts.

H.R. 1350 will help schools identify special needs students at an earlier age and avoid misidentification of children. When a child is identified as having a disability at an early

age, their parents and teachers are better able to address their needs and integrate them as much as possible into the regular educational curriculum. I have worked hard to secure funding for newborn hearing screening programs, which save schools millions of dollars in special education costs by ensuring early detection and intervention of infants with hearing loss. Further efforts to increase early identification, as H.R. 1350 will accomplish, will surely save our schools millions more in special education costs.

H.R. 1350 puts us on the right track to provide funding that has been promised to our States and local school districts for 28 years. Many of us would have preferred that this bill provide mandatory IDEA funding increases, but by authorizing a plan to reach full funding of 40 percent of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities within seven years, H.R. 1350 is a step in the right direction. This bill will provide funding that our schools desperately need now.

This reauthorization will also help us learn how to reduce excessive paperwork for teachers. H.R. 1350 requires the General Accounting Office to conduct a study on Federal requirements under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act that result in excessive paperwork burdens for teachers. This study will help policymakers better understand how we can improve conditions for teachers.

I will continue to work with all community leaders to improve the discipline and procedural safeguards provisions in this bill. During my time in the Minnesota House of Representatives, our State crafted a careful balance between the rights of children with disabilities and non-disabled students. This allows schools to maintain a safe learning environment for all children and at the same time, resolve discipline issues. I hope to offer Minnesota as a model to create Federal policies that best meet the needs of students and schools.

The bill before us today, while not perfect, will make notable improvements to the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. In the coming weeks, I will work very hard with the disability community and my colleagues in the Senate to pass a final version of this reauthorization that allows for the best educational opportunity for all children.

GEORGIA CELEBRATES CHIEF
WARRANT OFFICER RON YOUNG,
JR.

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, the capture of Chief Warrant Officer Ron Young, Jr. by Iraqi forces terrified not only his family back in Lithia Springs, Ga., but also all the Americans watching the news clips of the POWs.

When our Nation goes to war, our soldiers answer the call to sacrifice with honor. In the War on Iraq, they proved once more that they're the greatest fighting force the world has ever known.

Yet, even with the best trained soldiers, even with the best equipment, real dangers confront our fighting men and women.

Such was the case on March 24, when the helicopter of Chief Warrant Officer Young and

Chief Warrant Officer David Williams went down and they were captured by Iraqis.

For several days, the families of the captives and the American public watched the excruciating television footage of our brave soldiers being interviewed by their captors.

We could tell by the looks on their faces that they were unsure of their fates. In fact, as Ron Young recently said, death seemed to be an inevitability.

But their families held out hope. Without new information, hope was all they had.

Weeks passed with no news and hope turned to despair.

And on Palm Sunday, our despair turned to jubilation, as advancing U.S. forces liberated the POWs.

Many of us woke up that day to see the Young family celebrating Ron's freedom.

The Young family talked of their lasting faith, of their hope. They talked of their love for Ron and their excitement over his imminent return. Mrs. Young, a day from her birthday, had her wish come true: She would, indeed, be reunited with her son.

Their joy was our joy. When American soldiers face danger in the name of freedom, their compatriots rally behind them. We mourn their setbacks; we hail their victories.

We celebrate the safe return of Ron Young Jr., an American patriot and hero, to his family in Georgia.

On May 9, the people of Douglas County, Ga., will gather by the thousands to welcome home Chief Warrant Officer Young.

And we also want to say thank you to Ron Young and the thousands of other soldiers who put their lives on the line to defend their country and its people.

May God bless this country and its military.

IN RECOGNITION OF HEADMASTER WILLIAM MECKLENBURG POLK OF GROTON SCHOOL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to honor William Mecklenburg Polk, Headmaster of the Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts for twenty five years of dedicated service as Headmaster.

Like his illustrious predecessors John Crocker and Endicott Peabody, Bill Polk has left a remarkable legacy at the school and has touched the lives of thousands of young men and women who attended Groton over that span of time.

In his own words, "everyone who has attended Groton or entrusted their children to its care knows that Groton is a small, singular school. Today, in a society that seems increasingly to prize celebrity over character and self over service, Groton puts character, intellectual rigor, values, and service first."

Mr. Speaker, from his days as a Groton student, Bill Polk has epitomized Groton School values in all his academic, athletic, religious and pedagogic pursuits.

Appointed Headmaster in 1978, Bill Polk has made it his business, in his own words, to see that "Groton creates opportunities to cultivate individually students' minds and char-

acters (and) as a church school, it inevitably challenges students to discover their own moral and spiritual values. Groton's insistence on the highest academic standards would matter little if its graduates, to borrow Walker Percy's line, 'earned straight A's in school but flunked life.'"

Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, please join me in saluting Headmaster Polk's stewardship and that of LuAnn Polk, his better half, for all of their years of service and love of the young, education and life.

SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, nearly all of our lives have been touched by suicide at some point, be it a family member, neighbor or friend. It represents the darkest moment in a life, and inevitably touches many other lives with sadness and curiosity.

Suicide is a mental health issue that crosses racial boundaries and deeply affects every community in the United States. The Hispanic community is no exception. As in most communities, Hispanics find suicide a difficult topic to broach. The stigma still attached to mental health issues makes asking for help difficult; but the most overwhelming problem for most Hispanics is access to care that will benefit them.

In 2000, 18% of Hispanic females aged 12–17 were considered at risk for suicide, compared to 16% of white females and 8% of Hispanic males. Only 32 percent of Hispanic female youths at risk for suicide receive mental health treatment, according to the 2000 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

In 1997, the Attorney General reported a national survey of high school students showed that Hispanic adolescents reported more suicide attempts proportionally than both whites and blacks.

Among Hispanic Americans with a mental disorder, fewer than 1 in 11 contact mental health specialists, while fewer than 1 in 5 contact general health care providers. The figure is even worse among Hispanic immigrants with mental disorders where fewer than 1 in 20 use services from mental health specialists, while fewer than 1 in 10 use services from general health care providers.

Many times access to mental health services can be difficult for individuals in Hispanic communities, due to language barriers, which keep them from accessing the critical assistance they need to cope with their illness.

Mr. Speaker, suicide is a serious problem among Hispanics, and other Americans. I want to thank Congresswoman Napolitano and Congressman Murphy for organizing the Mental Health Caucus to bring members together to shine light on the dark topic of suicide. I also thank the gentlewoman from Brownsville, Texas for organizing this special order to draw attention to this important subject.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE JAMES BUCHELE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions made by James Buchele of Topeka, Kansas, to his city, county, state and nation, over a lengthy and distinguished public career that spans the thirty-five years I have known him.

Jim Buchele stepped down from the Kansas District Court bench in Shawnee County after eighteen years of service in 1999. Prior to his appointment, he served as United States Attorney for Kansas. His legal career began in 1966 with private practice in Topeka, after graduation from Washburn University School of Law and Kansas State University. He also served as City Attorney for Topeka and as chief of staff for Representative Martha Keys of Kansas' Second Congressional District. He served four terms as a state representative in the Kansas Legislature.

As an attorney and as a judge, Jim Buchele was involved in a wide range of state and federal litigation. After stepping down from the bench, Jim continued to serve as a professional mediator and arbitrator, as well as taking special assignments from the Kansas Supreme Court and serving as a member of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, which made recommendations regarding the management of the funds Kansas receives from the tobacco litigation settlement in order to finance programs and services for children.

Mr. Speaker, Roscoe Pound once said that "Law is experience developed by reason and applied continually to further experience." This sentence sums up Jim's lifetime of service in the law. During his time on the bench, for example, he specialized in handling domestic relations cases, including issues such as divorce, property division, child custody and other related matters. Shortly before he stepped down from the bench, the Topeka Capital-Journal published an article reviewing the special interest and attention that Judge Buchele brought to the family law docket in Shawnee County. I include the article in the RECORD and commend it to you and to my colleagues as evidence of a career in the law that brought tremendous benefits to Jim Buchele's community over a lengthy and successful career. As Owen Fiss wrote in the Harvard Law Review, "The function of the judge—a statement of social purpose and a definition of role—is not to resolve disputes, but to give the proper meaning to our public values."

Please join me in saluting Jim Buchele as he moves into full time retirement, where I'm sure he will continue to serve his community and nation at every possible opportunity.

JUDGE FOUND REWARDS IN FAMILY LAW

(By Steve Fry)

Shawnee County District Judge James Buchele measures his impact as a family law judge, in part, by a handful of cards and letters he has received from people who passed through his courtroom during divorces and subsequent disputes.

"Thanks a bunch. I really appreciate all that you have done," wrote a little girl, who

told Buchele she was making A's and B's in school.

Another is a letter from a mother, whose children would be able to start college using the backlogged child support Buchele had recovered for the family.

Yet another is a letter from a mother, who hadn't been paid child support for two or three years before Buchele got it started again.

"This year I will be able to put the boys in Scouts," the woman wrote.

"I was really touched by that letter," Buchele said. "I never realized that that cost was out of reach for some people sometimes because the laws aren't being enforced.

"It makes you appreciate the impact you can have by taking on an area that most judges and lawyers don't like to mess with," he said, referring to family law.

There is a saying that in family law, especially divorces, you see good people at their worst, and in criminal law, you see bad people at their best as a defendant shows his most positive image to influence jurors.

In the past, a district judge quickly could tire of trying divorces, deciding child custody questions between contentious parents and refereeing bitter domestic battles.

"That is the traditional take on what family law is all about," Buchele said. "That's not the way it is in Shawnee County any more."

Formulation of the "Shawnee County Family Law Guidelines," mandatory attendance at a workshop for divorcing parents, the supervised exchange of children, the development of family law into a speciality in which about a dozen attorneys handle about 80 percent of the cases and reducing the number of family law judges from nine to two has helped quiet the local domestic battles, Buchele said.

In an area of law that normally is assigned to a judge for a couple of years or so, Buchele has handled family law in Shawnee County for five years.

"I would rather see good people who are struggling, especially when there are children involved, and help them than sentencing drug offenders when you wonder how much good you're doing," Buchele said.

Buchele said that in family law, there is a real possibility to help someone, sometimes if only to end a marriage that has gone bad.

After 18½ years, Buchele's stint on the Shawnee County District bench ends when he retires Thursday.

The most harmful thing for a child whose parents are divorcing is to witness the ongoing conflict between mother and father, Buchele said, noting children whose parents stay in conflict "are the ones who have problems."

"I put the kids' interest first," Buchele said, acknowledging sometimes his decisions weren't popular with the parents because things weren't "equal." But if being equal means perpetuating the conflict between parents, equal isn't in the best interests of the child, Buchele said.

Buchele handled many criminal trials, the most memorable being the cases of Bobby Jackson, killer of three men in April 1994 at a south Topeka strip bar, and Kenneth "Kenny" Cook, who in September 1992 robbed a man of his drugs, shot him to death with a black powder pistol, mutilated the victim's body to block his identification and sank his body in a river.

Buchele, who sentenced Jackson, learned of Jackson's March 18, 1995, escape from the Shawnee County Jail while reading a newspaper in a Miami airport. Buchele, who had sentenced Jackson to 72 years in prison for convictions of two counts of first-degree murder, one count of voluntary manslaughter and other charges, was shocked.

"I wondered if he was looking for me," said Buchele, who was a little afraid. "It was a lightning bolt."

Jackson was recaptured on March 22, 1995.

Buchele has a reputation for enforcing the rules in the courtroom, including literally keeping attorneys on their toes. A sitting attorney who spoke to Buchele would quietly be instructed to stand when speaking to a judge. A spectator entering the courtroom with a cup of coffee in his hand would quickly be shown the door.

Both are the examples of decorum in the court, and Buchele's model for courtroom conduct was Judge Earl O'Connor, former chief federal judge for the district of Kansas.

After hanging up his judicial robes, Buchele will handle special assignments throughout Kansas as a senior judge, sit on the Kansas Court of Appeals to help ease a backlog of cases and work full-time as a mediator and arbitrator in business and family disputes.

"I think there will be a high demand," Buchele said. Dispute resolution is even finding its way into criminal cases to resolve charges before the case goes to trial. Buchele is undecided how he feels about that. "It's certainly a revolutionary approach," Buchele said.

Buchele has also become a co-author with the recent publication of "Kansas Law and Practice: Kansas Family Law." Co-author of the legal work is Linda D. Elrod, a Washburn University law professor.

COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE NATIVE WINS NATIONAL TITLE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Charles Morrison, Jr. of Columbia, Tennessee. The former Columbia Central High graduate recently took top honors among a field of 142 shooters at the 35th Annual ACUI Intercollegiate Clay Target Championships. Mr. Morrison is a freshman at Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri where he is majoring in business.

The event, sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation, consisted of teams from 22 colleges around the nation. The competition was held at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio, Texas.

Morrison and his teammates finished with 5 shooters in the top 10, took the top four spots in the women's competition and captured first, second and third in team competition.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Morrison all the best in the future. With focus, determination, and skill aiding you the sky is the limit.

ADDRESS BEFORE THE STUDENT GLOBAL AIDS CAMPAIGN, MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, VT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to share with you some excerpts from remarks I gave at Middlebury College on May 2, 2003 regarding the international AIDS crisis:

Hello and thank you for inviting me to address this very important gathering. While I am most certainly not a great expert on this issue, I am appreciative that I have this opportunity to exchange a few thoughts with you.

The HIV virus respects no boundaries. In every corner of the world, it strikes young and old alike. Especially tragic, those infected include staggering numbers of children. Here are some numbers which should sober us all:

Last year, over three million people died of AIDS.

That represents nearly 8,500 persons dying each day from AIDS.

Last year alone, five million previously healthy people were infected with HIV.

Today, there are over 42 million people living with HIV/AIDS across the world.

No part of the world knows the devastation of HIV/AIDS more than Sub-Saharan Africa. Of the 42 million people living with the disease worldwide, over two-thirds—29 million people—are in this poverty-stricken region. 8.8 percent of the adult population in sub-Saharan Africa is infected with HIV/AIDS. And that number is growing: Seventy percent of the estimated 5 million new infections globally last year were in Sub-Saharan Africa. Unbelievably, in Swaziland, 38.6 percent of adults are infected.

Although the increase of AIDS/HIV infections has flattened in our own country, it still remains a crisis here. In North America overall, over one half of one percent of adults 15 to 49 years of age are infected, including an infection rate in the Caribbean of nearly two and a half percent.

How did the AIDS crisis get so dire? Part of the answer has to do with a failure in the American political system, a failure that was often mirrored in other political systems around the world.

The HIV virus was first identified in the United States over 20 years ago. Public policy is supposed to identify problems in society and come up with ways to make things right. But owing to a great failure on the part of many of our political and religious leaders at the time, the disease was not considered a matter of concern: On the contrary, it was met with ignorance, fear and, often, complete indifference. Tragically, many public figures used the appearance of AIDS as an opportunity to make political gains among right-wing voters by espousing the hateful and destructive rhetoric of homophobia. Some prominent religious conservatives framed the epidemic as a divinely-ordained blight upon gay men, while some reactionaries in Congress went so far as to consider bills proposing to quarantine gay men.

During these critical years, at the dawn of this pandemic, President Ronald Reagan remained silent. Although his supporters liked to call him "The Great Communicator," it took President Reagan seven years to publicly acknowledge the existence of the disease. AIDS, which in 1981—the first year of Reagan's term in office—had been diagnosed in roughly 335 people and took the lives of 158, exploded exponentially while he and his administration maintained a regime of silence in the face of the growing pandemic. Six years later, in 1987, when President Reagan finally uttered the word "AIDS" in public, over 71,000 people had been diagnosed in the United States and over 41,000 of them had died. In those shameful years of silence, the number of HIV/AIDS diagnoses had jumped 21,000 percent; the number of AIDS deaths had jumped 25,900 percent.

The failure of U.S. leadership, as well as political leadership around the world, at the outset of this crisis was blatant and unforgivable. Ignorance and denial and a stark

homophobia squandered our best chance to face up to the threat, and control its devastating effects on our nation. My point here is not to be "political" or to make gratuitous criticism. It is to make the point that prejudice and silence are not the way to face up to huge threats to civil society. This is true whether the situation is SARS in China, or AIDS in South Africa, or arsenic-laced water in Bangladesh, or women's illnesses in a male-dominated medical culture. It is the responsibility of political leadership to courageously address problems even when they are politically uncomfortable.

Today, while we are not entirely free of the irresponsible and destructive rhetoric of two decades ago, while some still proclaim that AIDS is God's punishment for homosexuality, the AIDS landscape is considerably better. The government estimates that 40,000 Americans are infected with HIV each year, a figure that has remained roughly stable for over a decade. This figure was nearly offset each year by AIDS deaths, so the total number of Americans carrying the virus stayed level for a number of years. Today, however, with new drug treatments which stave off the effects of AIDS, deaths have plunged from around 40,000 annually to about 15,000. As a result, new infections are outstripping deaths. Although the United States does not keep national records on who has HIV and AIDS, the Center for Disease Control estimates that almost a million people—900,000—are infected with the AIDS virus. One quarter of them do not know they are infected; another quarter are receiving no care or treatment for their infection.

There is some good news on the horizon, even if the world-wide view is bleak. Yesterday, I voted for the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003—which won in the House by an overwhelming vote. This bill will authorize \$15 billion over the next five years to fight these terrible diseases in Africa and the Caribbean—the regions struck most severely by this scourge—through treatment and prevention on an unprecedented scale. This is certainly a very large step in the right direction. Although I do not often find myself in agreement with President Bush, I am heartened that he supports this initiative. The outcome of this legislation is that, with the participation of other wealthy nations, it is estimated that 2 million HIV-positive Africans will be provided some sort of treatment, and 7 million needless new HIV infections will be prevented.

However, a word of caution about this legislation which has not yet passed the Senate! While the House bill authorizes \$3 billion a year for five years, an authorization is not an appropriation. It's not real money. Right now, despite the President's very public support of the legislation, the President asked for only \$1.7 billion for global AIDS in his 2004 budget proposal and, according to *The New York Times* today, appropriators say that it will not be easy to find the rest of the money. What this means is that the pressure must stay on Congress and the President to actually allocate these funds at the level so publicly trumpeted and called a "moral imperative" by President Bush this week.

Yet, despite this legislation, we continue to have a failure in leadership from the White House and the Congress. While the new legislation passed this week is certainly an important step in the right direction, most of the forty million people infected with HIV/AIDS, and the millions more who are being infected each year, live under a virtual death sentence.

This need not be the case. Government-sponsored research, in this country and abroad, has made giant steps forward. Biochemists and physicians have developed ef-

fective antiretroviral medicines that enable people to live with HIV and avoid the onset of full-blown AIDS. They provide a reasonable quality of life to those who would otherwise face nothing but suffering and death. Yet many of these medicines are priced so high that, while Magic Johnson and those with Cadillac health care plans may be able to afford them, most of the afflicted cannot afford the medicines which would promise them life, instead of death.

And now, let me touch upon a key element of the whole AIDS discussion—an element that deals with fundamental questions of morality, justice, economics, and politics: and that is the role of the pharmaceutical industry in the AIDS crisis. As I mentioned a moment ago, because of efforts of the federal government and the pharmaceutical industry, major breakthroughs have taken place which are saving countless lives. And we applaud those scientists and researchers, both in the public and private sector, who have done so much to advance the treatment of those with AIDS. But the question here is not just the issue of research, but who benefits from that research? And in that regard, I must tell you that I have some very, very deep concerns about the behavior of the pharmaceutical industry—the most profitable industry in the United States.

The profits of the drug companies come, in large part, from making drugs available to those who can afford to pay high prices for them. Drug prices are set to maximize profits, not to make needed medicines available to the widest number of people. (And in that regard I should point out that the United States is the only industrialized country not to regulate the prices of prescription drugs). This is true for most pharmaceuticals: it is especially true for AIDS medications. Despite the gravity of the AIDS crisis and the horrendous pain and suffering of those dying from AIDS, the drug companies in most cases have continued to put their desire for large profits above the pain of millions of people who suffer unspeakably around the globe. I wish I could tell you otherwise, but I fear that high profits and high CEO salaries are often more important to these companies than saving lives.

Let me use one example to illustrate this. Last month drug giant GlaxoSmithKline announced that it would reduce the price of its drug Combivir in the developing world from \$1.70 per day to \$0.90 per day. The same treatment costs \$18 per day in the United States. Some might say that this is evidence of Glaxo's commitment to serve people over profits and, clearly, Glaxo's recent announcement will provide some real relief to those struggling to treat their infection. Yet, while this recent announcement surely makes for good public relations for Glaxo, which had net profits before taxes of \$9.7 billion in 2002, we must ask ourselves some hard questions: Why have they done this? Is it enough? Will it help?

Why have they lowered the price of Combivir in the developing world? Well, two years ago pharmaceutical companies in the developing world figured out how to make a generic equivalent of Combivir at a much lower price. Today, for instance, India's Ranbaxy Laboratories offers the same treatment at 73 cents a day, in a tablet approved by the World Health Organization. So, in an important sense, Glaxo is not cutting prices as much as meeting competition. Although Glaxo has stated in the past that it would not sell AIDS drugs at a profit in the developing world and that its recent price cuts were made possible by continuing improvements in manufacturing processes and economies of scale, it only dropped its prices after manufacturers in India figured out how to produce the same drug at a lower price.

And Glaxo's price is still more than the competition.

To understand the logic of the pharmaceutical companies from this example, you have to consider a second point that Glaxo, conveniently, did not include in their announcement of the price reduction of Combivir. Combivir is but one of a number of effective anti-retroviral medicines: many of them have their most significant impact when they are taken in combination with other medicines, i.e., cocktails.

It turns out that Combivir is most effective when taken in combination with a protease inhibitor called Agenerase. Agenerase—also produced by Glaxo—is still priced at \$8 per day, or nearly \$3,000 per year, making it completely unaffordable to many poorer patients. In Africa, for instance, most people earn less than \$500 per year. So what Glaxo offers with one hand, it undercuts with the other. It is still not providing the necessary anti-AIDS cocktails that people in the developing world need if they are to survive. While there is some indication that Glaxo may reduce the price for this drug, it makes no sense for this drug to remain at an unaffordable price for those who need treatment. To put this in context, we should remember that in Swaziland, where the infection rate is 38.6 percent, the per capita income is \$140 per year.

The issue that we're discussing now is a profound moral issue. Should people die from a disease that can be treated because they cannot afford the medicine that will save their lives? Should large drug companies make billions in profit each year, and pay their CEOs exorbitant pay, while they charge outrageously high prices for their products?

It is my belief that health care is a right, not a privilege. That is why I believe that the United States should join the rest of the industrialized world and develop a national health care program guaranteeing health care to all people, regardless of income.

The same logic means that, as part of the world community, we must demand nothing less than full access to all available means of saving the lives of those afflicted with AIDS. The predominant right here is not the right of drug companies to make obscene profits because an uncontrolled marketplace may allow that. The right we must uphold is the right of every human being, if imperiled, to access the medicines which can save his or her life. With over 40 million persons suffering from HIV/AIDS across the world, with 5 million new infections annually, with over 600,000 children under the age of 15 dying of AIDS last year, that is a right we must insist upon and fight for.

We have the technology to save these AIDS-threatened lives now. In this day of unprecedented global distribution networks, with a real commitment from the United States and other wealthy nations to begin funding this epic battle, the pharmaceutical companies must stop putting profit before people. And if they will not do it on their own, then the government of the United States must insist they do so. Pharmaceutical companies get all sorts of government support: tax breaks, government-funded research, patent protection, etc. In return, they must be required to provide medicines, at cost if need be, to combat the AIDS pandemic.

Any serious, comprehensive approach to fighting AIDS in the developing world must [also] include an unprecedented debt-forgiveness program. We must call on the World Bank and the IMF to write off the debts of the impoverished nations, not only in Africa, but in the Caribbean, in Central America, in South America, in Asia. As a requirement for writing off these debts, we can insist that the countries involved commit adequate resources to AIDS education and the fight

against AIDS, as well as to building a society where fighting disease and want and malnutrition and lack of education is paramount.

Obviously, there is a lot of work to do. Every student in this auditorium has an opportunity to do something. The range of roles you can play is very broad—whether working directly in the delivery of healthcare services or prevention programs through relief organizations or public health programs; working in international development or finance for sane policies that actually benefit struggling communities and developing nations rather than policies that simply serve to further line the pockets of already-rich multinational corporations; or working in politics or public policy here in the United States for approaches that recognize the immeasurable global impact of every foreign policy and aid decision made in the U.S. Congress.

In whatever role you end up playing, it will be paramount to remember this: Even during our present economic slump—and especially when the world economy is so-called “roaring”—the biggest decisions made here and globally are about the allocation of resources. We have the resources to wage a successful war in the prevention of HIV/AIDS. We have medicines available today that can substantially alleviate the vast human suffering over 42 million persons are enduring right now, this minute. One of the great tests of our day—the battle against HIV/AIDS—will ultimately be measured by the yardstick of how we allocated our resources.

Our nation must insist that the pharmaceutical industry provide life-saving drugs to suffering millions, rather than providing tens of millions of dollars in salaries, stock option and retirement bonuses to its CEOs.

Let me conclude with a very hard, and very important truth. The United States, and its government, will not address the major problems which face us unless you demand we do so.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. CLAIR COUNTY SHERIFF MEARL JUSTUS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 50th Anniversary of St. Clair County, Illinois Sheriff Mearl Justus' law enforcement career.

When Mearl Justus began as a part-time Cahokia police officer in 1953, he didn't even have a radio in his car. Now, exactly 50 years later, he's in charge of the St. Clair County Sheriff's department and every car has a computer in the dash. A lot of changes have come and gone in these past 50 years.

At first, Justus didn't even plan to become a police officer. Mearl says he was raised poor by his grandparents. Cahokia Mayor Bill Miskell back in 1953 told Justus he would make a good cop. The next thing he knew, he got a gun and a badge. At the time he was a twenty-one year old high school dropout. Since Cahokia did not have a high school, he attended school in nearby Dupo, but never finished. However, it didn't take long for Justus to learn about being a cop. So began a career in law enforcement that would span half a

century, touch the lives of thousands of people and bring a new approach to law enforcement in our area.

Mearl soon returned to school, realizing that if he wanted to continue working as a cop, he needed an education in law enforcement. He soon received his GED and began looking for training opportunities. In 1959, he took a class at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. It was a weeklong course, so Justus took a week long vacation and took the class. In 1976, he received his Associates Degree from Southwestern Illinois Community College (SWIC) and in 1978 he received his BS in the Administration of Criminal Justice from Western Illinois University. In 1983, Justus received a second Associates Degree from SWIC in Security Administration. He now possesses a master's degree in the Administration of Justice from the Metropolitan Collegiate Institute in London. Today, Mearl continues his education by teaching a law enforcement course at SWIC and has established a scholarship program to help other students with GED's to continue their education.

In his police career, Justus was appointed Police Chief in Cahokia in 1962 after serving on the force for a decade. According to Mearl, Cahokia had changed a lot since 1953. Cahokia grew from a small rural community, where the cops didn't even have two-way radios. If you needed a cop, Mearl says, you walked around until you found one. Cahokia, like other growing towns, became a place where crime grew as the population grew. He started seeing more burglaries, thefts and armed robberies. It wasn't until 1972 that he investigated his first murder, a case that haunts him today.

During that summer in 1972, 14-year old Robbie Watson turned up missing. Eight weeks later his body was found east of Dupo, Illinois. Mearl conducted an investigation with very few leads. Just one-year ago however, Justus received a letter from an inmate serving time in prison in another state on an unrelated crime who confessed to that murder. Justus still thinks everyday of this crime, which has yet to be closed.

In 1982, Justus decided to pursue a political career—something he said he always wanted. He was elected St. Clair County Sheriff in 1982 and was re-elected for four more terms. After that first election, Justus and his wife, Audrey, moved out of their Cahokia home and into an apartment above the jail. Audrey Justus has said living above the jail took some getting used to, though it is probably the most secure living quarters in the county. All the windows are locked and all the doors are security doors. Both Mearl and Audrey have lived there for 20 years.

Mearl enjoys being a politician, his wife has said, but not as much as being a cop. Mearl never stops campaigning. He treats everyday as if the election is tomorrow, Audrey has said. Of all his accomplishments, Mearl has been his happiest when he is helping the poor and the elderly. Mearl enjoys being accountable to the voters, instead of other politicians.

Mearl certainly believes in doing his job creatively. He is well known for his outspoken attitude about traditional police policy. In 1988, the Sheriff held a benefit for the Women's Crisis Center by holding a Slumber in the Slammer, where people paid \$100 to spend the night in the new jail addition.

In 1990, he sent out more than 1,000 notices to fugitives in the county, telling them

they had won free sneakers. When they turned up to claim their prizes, they got a trip to jail.

In 1992, Justus swapped 500 guns confiscated by his department for bulletproof vests for his deputies. He has sold ads on patrol cars to raise money. He pushes youth programs, educating kids about the perils of drugs and about the rewards of careers in law enforcement. His humble beginnings also taught Justus compassion. In 1988, he arranged a cataract surgery for a woman who had lost \$6,000 in savings, including the \$1,400 needed for the surgery, during a robbery. He also established a nutrition ministry at Cahokia Park United Methodist Church 35 years ago. Mearl also features a crack house of the month to spotlight crime areas throughout the County.

Justus rarely carries a gun, although he usually has one within reach. Justus has said he doesn't even like guns. He tells the students at the class he teaches at SWIC that too much emphasis is put on guns. He says more crimes are solved with a pen than with a gun. Good law enforcement is not always about guns.

Justus has a unique collection in his office. He has quite a collection of pigs; wooden pigs, plastic pigs, stuffed pigs, even pictures of pigs. The pig became Justus's mascot in the 60's when students across the nation were protesting the war in Vietnam. Justus says Pig stands for Pride, Integrity and Justice.

In his last campaign, rumors were running rampant that he was ready to retire. Mearl says there is no truth to that. He intends to complete the job he started some 50 years ago. But besides being Sheriff of St. Clair County and keeping up with all the Boards and Commissions on which he serves, Mearl still finds time to fish.

I have known Mearl for much of his career in law enforcement. I have always said he is the second best Sheriff in St. Clair County. My father Dan being the first, who served from 1966–1970. This year, as he has every year as Sheriff, Mearl assists the inmates of the jail to tend their own vegetable garden. The vegetables grown there feed the inmates and what's left is distributed to local nursing homes.

Mearl Justice is a unique individual. He never forgot where he came from and what it means to struggle in life and to work hard. He instills this attribute everyday, to everyone he meets and works with. Mearl says it best when he says that “there isn't anything he would do different. I am satisfied with my life.”

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sheriff Mearl Justus on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary in the field of law enforcement and wish him many more years of service to the people of St. Clair County.

CONGRATULATING UNITED STATES CAPITOL POLICE ON 175TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I am an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res.

156, honoring the men and women of the U.S. Capitol Police as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the police force.

Congress established the Capitol Police during the administration of John Quincy Adams. Ponder how different the world was then, when the U.S. Congress was a young and largely untested deliberative body located in a relatively isolated town that was as much wilderness as it was settled territory.

In the last 175 years, the world has changed immeasurably, and so has the work of the Capitol Police.

Today the U.S. Capitol—which is simultaneously a national shrine, tourist attraction, and working office building—imposes extraordinary security requirements.

For example, more than three million tourists visited the Capitol complex in 2000. At the same time, the Capitol hosted more than 1,200 American and foreign dignitaries and 1,000 special events, and was the site of nearly 500 scheduled demonstrations. In addition to lawmakers and their staffs, a sizable number of journalists, concerned citizens, lobbyists, and service personnel also work within the Capitol complex.

To address these security requirements while keeping Congress as open and accessible as the Framers of the Constitution intended, the mission of the Capitol Police has expanded to provide the Congressional community and visitors with the highest possible quality of a full range of police services. These services are provided through the use of a variety of specialty support units and a network of foot patrols, vehicular patrols, and fixed posts.

In modern times, the Capitol Police have also had to cope with emergencies, bombings and shootings, including the tragic 1998 murders of Officer J.J. Chestnut and Detective John Gibson, that remain so painfully fresh in our memories.

After that tragic event, Congress properly heightened Capitol security, adopting a posture that requires considerable additional manpower. Recent events in the Middle East and elsewhere have obviously underscored the need for more officers and greater security. Fortunately, additional resources have been provided.

Congress has appropriated money to fund all the additional officers the Capitol Police can hire and train. Supplemental funds have also been provided to address needs identified since September 11, 2001.

Today, the Capitol Police face evolving threats from those who, for whatever reason, wish our country and our democracy harm. What was unthinkable only 18 months ago, has been done. We must remain vigilant and prepared as we work to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism and preserve and expand the promise of peace and democracy.

We will continue to rely on the Capitol Police as the first line of defense for the People's House and all who work and visit here.

The men and women of the Capitol Police meet their challenges with courage and a level of professionalism not exceeded anywhere. Since the dastardly attacks of September 11, and again after the heightened security level of the past few months, Capitol Police officers, under the able leadership of Chief Terrance Gainer, have worked long hours under adverse conditions. These men and women clearly represent the best that America has to offer.

I want to express my personal thanks for a job well done and wish the United States Capitol Police a sincere and happy 175th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H. Con. Res. 156.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS SACCO, RECIPIENT OF THE PURPLE HEART

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas Sacco, a veteran of World War II. After waiting 58 long years, he has finally been awarded the Purple Heart that he earned as a young private while serving his country in Europe.

Private Sacco was barely 18 years old when he volunteered to serve as a paratrooper in the famous and sometimes feared 101st Airborne division.

He was wounded in the town of Noville, Belgium. As his outfit advanced toward the Axis Army he was struck by shrapnel in his left arm and back and rendered unconscious.

58 years later his heroism and sacrifice is being recognized by the United States Government.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Thomas Sacco a constituent and I ask you to join with me in thanking him for his service.

RECOGNIZING NATHAN A. LAUDICK ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Nathan A. Laudick of Van Wert, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Nathan will soon graduate from Van Wert High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a high grade point average. He is an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters in football, and track and field. And, he has clearly demonstrated his leadership ability, serving as a class officer and student body officer. He is a member of the National Honor Society.

Nathan Laudick can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Nathan is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Army. As a member of the United States Corps of Cadets, he will face a most demanding academic curriculum and physical regimen. He will live, study and prepare in an environment where strong leadership thrives, individual achievement is expected, and personal integrity is demanded.

Mr. Speaker, General John W. Vessey, Jr. once wrote, "The Nation's ability to remain

free and at peace depends in no small measure on whether we will continue to inspire our youth to serve."

I am confident that Nathan Laudick has the character and ability to excel at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his very important service to our nation.

HONORING DR. KURT KORAL AS HE IS RECOGNIZED BY THE CONNECTICUT STATE DENTAL ASSOCIATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the Connecticut Dental Association in extending my sincere congratulations to Dr. Kurt Koral who will be honored today with the Distinguished Service Award.

In a career that has spanned nearly four decades, Dr. Koral has worked diligently to improve the field of dentistry. In addition to his private practice, he has and continues to serve on the staffs of both the Hospital of Saint Raphael and Yale-New Haven Hospital. He is also an Associate Professor at the Yale University School of Medicine's Department of Surgery. As a surgeon, professor, and legislative activist, Dr. Koral has touched the lives of thousands.

Throughout his career, Dr. Koral has demonstrated a unique commitment to the field of dentistry through his participation in numerous professional organizations and continued advocacy. Past President of the New Haven Dental Association, Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Society and the American College of Dentists, and member of the Connecticut Dental Association, among many others, since 1968—Dr. Koral has committed a lifetime of leadership to his profession.

I have often spoke of the importance of participating in the legislative process. I believe that through these efforts real change can be made. Dr. Koral shares this belief and has worked hard over the years to effect public policy at every level of government. Today, as Chairman of the Connecticut Dental Association's Legislative Council, Dr. Koral is a leading voice in matters important to the Association and the field of dentistry.

For his many invaluable contributions and unparalleled advocacy, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Kurt Koral as he is recognized with the Connecticut Dental Association's Distinguished Service Award. Through his continued advocacy and constant participation, he has made a real difference in the lives of many. His efforts are sure to inspire others for many years to come.

HONORING MRS. CAROL A. GREINER

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol A. Greiner. Carol has

been the Honorary President of the University of Buffalo Women's Club, and she has been tirelessly committed to the University and to the Buffalo region for years.

Carol has a long history of service to her community that is to be commended. Aside from her involvement in the University of Buffalo Women's Club, she has volunteered her time in many capacities that include organizing a campaign to raise funds for the establishment of the first kidney dialysis center in Seattle and serving as a dedicated participant in the Parent Teacher Association for over 17 years.

Carol is an example for how to balance the demands of family, career, and community service. She has strongly supported her husband, now President of the University of Buffalo, and helped him with his rise to success. She is a model parent, having raised four children—Kevin, Terrence, Daniel, and Susan.

I am sharing Carol's story with this chamber today because she so strongly exemplifies model citizenship. Carol and her husband selflessly give of themselves to their community. They were surrogate parents for a disturbed teenager, who recovered completely from her problems after living with the Greiners in their home. Other testaments to her civic commitment include membership in Working for Downtown, Bethel Head Start Program (where she served on the Board of Directors), the League of Women Voters, and Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (where she served on the Women's Committee).

I am privileged to know Mrs. Carol Greiner, and honored to consider her a friend. She is an asset to our community in Buffalo, and she stands as a shining example of a life lived in service to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 170, 171, and 175, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING THE SOUTH LAKE MEMORIAL AMERICAN LEGION AUX #55

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the South Lake Memorial American Legion Auxiliary #55 on their Anniversary. Sixty-six years ago this Auxiliary was founded by the brave veterans of World War I and has been serving their community ever since.

Most recently, they were recognized as one of the strongest promoters of the "Spinoza Bear Program". This is a compassionate crusade that brings a smile to thousands of grieving children.

Their commitment to public service is renewed every year as they sponsor two young women to attend Girl's State, a wonderful pro-

gram that has been developed to foster political activism in our nation's youth. They are involved in countless other activities that promote community involvement by their members.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call the men and women of the South Lake Memorial American Legion constituents, and I ask that you join with me today to congratulate them on their service to our nation.

RECOGNIZING GREGORY J.S. TRUMBLE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Gregory J.S. Trumble of Tiffin, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy.

Greg will soon graduate from Columbian High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a 3.6 grade point average. He is an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters and serving as Captain of the track and field team and the cross country team. And, he has clearly demonstrated his leadership ability, having served as class president and participated in numerous activities. He is a member of the National Honor Society.

Gregory Trumble can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Greg is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Air Force. As a member of the Cadet Air Wing, he will face a most demanding academic curriculum and physical regimen. He will live, study and prepare in an environment where strong leadership thrives, individual achievement is expected, and personal integrity is demanded.

Mr. Speaker, General John W. Vessey, Jr. once wrote, "The Nation's ability to remain free and at peace depends in no small measure on whether we will continue to inspire our youth to serve."

I am confident that Gregory Trumble has the character and ability to excel at the U.S. Air Force Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his very important service to our Nation.

HONORING MARIA CONLON OF THE 2002-2003 UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to join family, friends, and the Derby community on "Maria Conlon Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements of our hometown hero, Maria Conlon. Starting guard for the Lady

Huskies of the University of Connecticut, Maria was instrumental throughout the season and the National Championship Tournament.

A graduate of Seymour High School, Maria displayed a unique talent during her high school career—a fact which is reflected in the recognition she received as WBCA Honorable Mention All-American, Gatorade State Player of the Year, three-time All-State pick, four-time All-League Selection, two-time State Championship MVP, and New Haven Register Player of the Year. She has owned the State records for three-pointers in both a season and career. She continues to own the school records at Seymour High School for points, assists, and steals. Maria was honored at the end of her high school career with the retirement of her jersey number.

During her three-year career with the University of Connecticut Huskies, Maria has become well-known for her sharpshooting from behind the three-point line. She is one of only two players to have been on the court in all seventy of UCONN's record-setting run of seventy straight victories. There are many facets which must come together to make such history. Maria's leadership, spirit, and uncompromising drive are one of the forces behind the Huskies' sensational victories.

Winning their fourth NCAA championship, this year's victory was especially gratifying because the Huskies overcame incredible odds to earn a repeat championship. The first women's basketball team in history to win a national championship without a single senior on the roster, the Lady Huskies have set a new standard for team work and perfection. Maria and her fellow teammates have again shown that their undeniable talent and dedication will make dreams a reality.

Maria has worked hard to achieve her goals and serves as a role model to young women across the country. We are certainly fortunate to have her call Derby home. I am honored to stand today and join the Derby community in congratulating Maria Conlon and honoring her on "Maria Conlon Day" for her outstanding achievements—not only as a Lady Husky, but as a member of our community. Hers is a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

HONORING COACH NAN HARVEY

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Coach Nan Harvey.

Nan Harvey is the Associate Athletics Director at the University of Buffalo. She has been a softball umpire for 28 years, and has devoted her life to women's athletics.

Nan's accomplishments on the field are beyond impressive. As head coach of women's softball at the University of Buffalo, she led her team to 38 wins in next three years, earning State University of New York Athletic Conference Coach of the Year honors in 1985. In 1991, Nan was inducted into the Western New York Softball Hall of Fame. In 1996, she was named the Amateur Softball Association Metro Buffalo Umpire of the Year. Later that year, Nan was given one of the highest honors for an ASA umpire when she was inducted into

the National Indicator Fraternity of the Amateur Softball Hall of Fame. She's been an umpire for several national slow-pitch tournaments and the NCAA Division III National Championship for three years.

When I first began work on Title IX earlier this year, my office contacted Nan to find out more about the effects of Title IX at the University of Buffalo. She was enormously helpful and supportive in helping us lead the fight to save this fundamental civil rights law that ensures gender equality in athletic opportunities.

I was devastated to hear that Nan is currently battling ovarian cancer. She learned of her disease almost three years ago, and has been undergoing chemotherapy for 34 straight months. Her prognosis is still very uncertain, yet she fights this disease daily with grace and determination.

Let me tell you about the kind of person Nan Harvey is. Despite suffering chemotherapy treatments, she is still dedicated to University of Buffalo Athletics. She has dedicated a large portion of her life to her family at the University of Buffalo. I am deeply moved by Nan's decision regarding her estate. With her health in an uncertain state, Nan decided to bequeath to the University of Buffalo athletic department a minimum of \$200,000 from her retirement funds. The money will be used with an emphasis on women's sports.

Her commitment to the University of Buffalo, and to female athletes, has inspired her colleagues, her students, and her community. In honor of everything that she has given to the school and to women's athletics, the University of Buffalo will be renaming its softball facility Nan Harvey Field.

I cannot express how deeply proud I am of Nan Harvey, of the life that she has led and the example she has set.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 172 and 176, had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

ON SUMTER COUNTY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an important historical anniversary in Sumter County, Florida, in my Fifth Congressional District.

Sumter County recently turned 150 years old and the people of the area celebrated this anniversary in true Sumter-County style this past weekend. I was pleased to be a part of the events and join some of my constituents in celebrating this milestone in the county's history.

Sumter County first appeared on Florida's map on January 8, 1853 after State legislation called for its creation from a portion of Marion County, its neighbor to the north. Today, a

century and a half later, Sumter County is home to more than 54,000, Floridians and that number is growing rapidly.

But rapid growth won't change what Sumter County is known for—its sense of community. Home to warm people and, as in the rest of Florida, warm weather, thousands of new residents move to Sumter County each year and find a home in what we've known for some time to be one of the best places in the country to live.

I congratulate the residents, the municipalities and the businesses of Sumter County as they recognize this important anniversary. I wish them 150 more years of growth, development and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY G. FOSTER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Zachary G. Foster of Tiffin, Ohio, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Zachary will soon graduate from Columbian High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a 3.8 grade point average. He is an accomplished athlete, earning varsity letters in soccer and swimming. And, he has clearly demonstrated his leadership ability, actively participating in Key Club, Knowledge Master Open and the National Honor Society.

Zachary Foster can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Zachary is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Army. As a member of the United States Corps of Cadets, he will face a most demanding academic curriculum and physical regimen. He will live, study and prepare in an environment where strong leadership thrives, individual achievement is expected, and personal integrity is demanded.

Mr. Speaker, General John W. Vessey, Jr. once wrote, "The Nation's ability to remain free and at peace depends in no small measure on whether we will continue to inspire our youth to serve."

I am confident that Zachary Foster has the character and ability to excel at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his very important service to our nation.

HONORING IRVING B. HARRIS FOR HIS INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join the Center for Human Po-

tential and Public Policy and the many who have gathered at the University of Chicago to honor and celebrate the contributions of an outstanding American—a man who is my dear friend, Irving B. Harris. Today's Festschrift is a fitting tribute to a man who has spent a lifetime in the service of others.

As I look over the course of Irving's life, I am struck by his countless acts of generosity and compassion. As an advocate, a philanthropist, and a leading voice for children, his achievements have left an indelible mark on our society. Irving Harris recognized early on that the key to our children's success lay in their most formative years, birth to three. He inspired, developed and supported scores of programs and organizations dedicated to improving the lives of disadvantaged youngsters across the nation. He founded the Erikson Institute, a child development graduate school, and the Ounce of Prevention Fund, a public/private partnership that created and promoted community-based initiatives to improve early childhood development. He was a leader in development of Zero to Three: The National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families whose work to support families and promote the healthy development of babies and toddlers had a tremendous impact in communities across the nation. His work brought him national recognition as a leading voice for the betterment of children across the country.

Irving Harris is one of those rare individuals with roots in the world of business and finance who has used his hard-won wealth and influence to help others less fortunate. And his work and diligence and dedication is not only remarkable but unceasing. It is a reflection of all that we strive to be. His sincerity is marked by the principles he instilled in his own family—in his children and grandchildren, who today carry on his work on behalf of the other children of America.

Through education, public policy development, grant-making and advocacy, Irving Harris' vision and leadership has earned him recognition and many honors and awards over the years. He has served many organizations including the National Commission on Children and the Carnegie Corporation's New York Task Force on Meeting the Needs of Young Children.

It has been an enormous privilege for me to work with Irving over the years, and I look forward to continuing our collaboration. Irving knows that our young people represent the future and we as a community and nation must give them the tools to succeed. He recognized this simple fact many years ago, and dedicated his life to fulfilling that important goal.

Irving Harris continues his work today, as I hope he will for many more years to come. Thank you, Irving for the difference you have made in this country, and the millions of lives you have made better through your vision, your passion, and your generous spirit of mind. You are an inspiration to all of us.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ELBERT W. SUTTON

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of this nation's most distinguished

and dedicated physicians, Dr. Elbert W. Sutton. After 43 years of faithful service to the Northwest Florida community, the past 24 years of which he has served as Director of the Santa Rosa County Health Department, Dr. Sutton will step down from his position in June of this year and begin his much deserved and well earned retirement.

A longtime resident of Milton, Florida, Dr. Sutton attended the University of Alabama as an undergraduate and subsequently received his medical degree from Tulane University in 1958. In 1960, he came to our community and opened a general private practice office. He kept this practice for 19 years until 1979, when he was appointed Director of the Santa Rosa County Health Department.

Over the course of his remarkable career, Dr. Sutton has continuously remained focused on helping to heal and improve the lives of area residents. In 1978, he was a partner in opening the Rehabilitation Institute of West Florida and I am proud to say that it remains operating today as part of the West Florida Hospital system. In 1986, Dr. Sutton joined forces again with other local healthcare professionals and created the Medical Assistance Clinic in Milton. This clinic provided medical care, to those who were unable to afford it, for 12 years until it was forced to close by rising medical costs. Finally, just two years ago, in 2001, Dr. Sutton helped create the Santa Rosa Community Clinic to provide primary healthcare services to residents in the surrounding community.

Upon his retirement, Dr. Sutton says it will be the people that he will miss most, both those he has helped serve and those he has worked with. I feel confident in saying that it is the people of Northwest Florida that will miss him more.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere and heartfelt congratulations to my good friend Dr. Elbert W. Sutton on his retirement from the Santa Rosa County Health Department. Very rarely does an individual have such a profound impact on a single community as Dr. Sutton has had on the First District of Florida. For the past 43 years, he has dedicated himself towards helping the residents of Northwest Florida and for that we will be forever grateful. Mr. Speaker, on this occasion we honor one of America's greatest public servants.

COMMEMORATING DUNNELLON'S BOOMTOWN DAYS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate "Boomtown" days in Dunnellon in my Fifth Congressional District of Florida.

This festival is held each year in Dunnellon to celebrate the history behind how the city of Dunnellon came to be.

Mr. Speaker, the story of how Dunnellon came to be is an interesting one, but not atypical of a town formed in the late 1880's in this country.

Dunnellon was created in 1887 and then saw its population boom in 1889 after phosphate was discovered there. The mining in-

dusty then "boomed" in the town and was responsible for the town's rapid growth and prosperity. Dunnellon was then dubbed a "Boomtown."

Each year, the city celebrates its heritage with a festival offering fun activities, contests, and parades for the people of Dunnellon.

This weekend, the residents of the city will carry on the tradition of celebrating "Boomtown days." I wish them the best and am proud to honor them in this Chamber today.

IN HONOR OF KALPANA CHAWLA

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the India Caucus, my colleagues JOE CROWLEY and JOE WILSON, for holding a memorial today in the House of Representatives for Dr. Kalpana Chawla.

It is with great sadness that we remember the tragic events of February 1, 2003. The loss of seven astronauts on board the shuttle *Columbia* leaves us with profound sadness that cannot be expressed.

Dr. Kalpana Chawla in particular represented much of the best that our world has to offer and I would like to pay special tribute to her. Kalpana grew up in India and although she came from a small, rural area—her charm, drive and dedication allowed her to surpass all boundaries and develop into the fine astronaut that she was.

In reading interviews that Kalpana gave both before and during her mission on *Columbia*, a portrait emerged of an intelligent, determined woman, who managed a successful career, while at the same time being a devoted daughter and wife. She helped open the door further for women in science and space exploration careers, and I know the people of India, as all of us here today, will always hold a special place in our heart for Kalpana. Those who were fortunate to know her personally will never forget her, and her legacy will live on.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT TO REQUEST FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER TO ASSIST THE ORHA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Concurrent Resolution designed to meet the most important promise we made to the people of Iraq—a promise to help them become self-governing.

Rebuilding Iraq will be a daunting undertaking. The Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance has been established in Baghdad, and its leader, retired General Jay Garner, is responsible for coordinating humanitarian assistance, restoring the nation's infrastructure, and establishing an interim government.

The ORHA is made up of retired generals and diplomats, government technocrats, and

oil executives. Efforts to establish and maintain civilian stability and coordinate humanitarian assistance will monopolize the ORHA for some time to come; tasks that would be daunting enough if they had inherited an intact bureaucracy and police force. But the ORHA's biggest stumbling block may turn out to be that none of its members have any experience in forging cooperation amongst radically differing political, religious, and ethnic factions to facilitate even the beginnings of a self-governing nation.

Iraq is the test case for our peacekeeping, nation building and humanitarian policies and success will demonstrate, to ourselves, and the rest of the world, that we can both win wars and transform societies. The three post-war initiatives of providing humanitarian assistance, restoring infrastructure, and establishing an interim government, must commence and progress simultaneously.

The Resolution I introduce today calls on the President to request former President Jimmy Carter and members of the Carter Center to assist the ORHA in establishing an interim government in Iraq. Former President Carter is uniquely qualified to forge a peaceful, cooperative structure among Iraq's political, religious, and ethnic factions. He has dedicated himself to resolving conflicts and enhancing freedom and democracy throughout the world.

Regardless of our opinions on the invasion of Iraq, we must keep the promises we made to the Iraqi people. U.S. and allied soldiers, civilians, and diplomats remain committed to what is certainly the most critical phase of Operation Iraqi Freedom. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this Resolution to ensure they have all the experience and expertise available to help ensure their success.

HONORING BURCH OIL COMPANY: 75 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Burch Oil Company, an excellent example of successful American entrepreneurship that has evolved to become a pillar of a local community. I am proud to recognize my good friends at Burch Oil Company who have been serving the citizens of Southern Maryland since 1928 and are celebrating their seventy-fifth anniversary this month. Whether it has been supplying the services of vital oil resources or helping to serve the community, the Burch Oil Company has built a solid reputation within the Southern Maryland community.

Founded in May of 1928, by cousins S. Bernard Burch, Thaddeus Burch, and Thaddeus' son Joe Burch, the company quickly began to service the community's gasoline, motor oil, and, most important to the area at the time, kerosene needs. With the onset of the Great Depression many businesses failed, but Burch Oil was able to steadily grow.

From the beginning of the company, the Burch family took an active role in the community. S. Bernard Burch served as the chairman for the Democratic State Central Committee and helped to establish the Mechanicsville

Volunteer Fire Department. Even during the worst of times, such as the Great Storm of 1933, the company delivered kerosene by skiff to hard hit St. George Island.

After S. Bernard Burch's death in May of 1944, a new era began with his son, F. Elliott Burch, Sr., who took over the reigns of the operation and guided the company through a period of steady growth for several decades until turning over the day-to-day duties to his two sons so he could devote more time to local politics. Serving as St. Mary's County Commissioner President from 1962 to 1970, F. Elliott, Sr. helped to steer St. Mary's County through a period of important community investments, during a time when local government was expanding to provide more services.

Outstanding service and high quality products have been the hallmarks of the Burch Oil Company since its founding by S. Bernard Burch in 1928; and on its 75th Anniversary, four generations of the Burch family, with a fifth soon to come of age, help to guide the hardworking and dedicated employees that have helped to make this company successful. In addition to their business success, they have been an integral component in helping to build St. Mary's County through their selfless commitment and belief in also performing public service to give back to the community in which they live. Today Burch Oil Company is led by F. Elliott (Sonny) Burch, Jr. and his brother Donald (Buddy) Burch, who have set their own high standard for community involvement, supported by 300 plus employees who carry on that proud tradition.

On behalf of the citizens of St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert Counties, it is a great privilege to honor the Burch Oil Company for reaching the milestone of 75 years in serving the community of Southern Maryland. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting a great example of American enterprise at its best. This company has been successful by its community, but continues to plough back its dividends every day through its public service. Congratulations to members of the Burch family and their employees and we wish you another 75 years of quality and reliable service to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 1, 2003, I regret that I missed the vote for rollcall 158, the vote on final passage for H.R. 1258, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003. I would like the record to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CRYSTAL RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL CHEERLEADING SQUAD

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Crys-

tal River Middle School Cheerleaders, from my Fifth Congressional District of Florida, for winning the national championship in their division at a competition held in Orlando last month.

The competition hosted more than 200 cheerleading squads from across the nation and truly was a venue for the best of the best to showcase their talents.

These seventh and eighth grade girls captured the top honors in the small school division and brought to Citrus County the first national championship trophy of any school, in any sport—ever.

The squad of 14 girls, led by Head Coach Irene Hupp and Assistant Coach Terry Yant, has made the city of Crystal River, all of Citrus County and the entire state of Florida very proud. I am immensely proud of them as well.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Amanda Bass, Marlana Camden, Tiffany Daniel, Nicole Davis, Katie Dicks, Sabrina Gonzales, Brittany Jones, Amber Lunginsland, Amanda Mayor, Alyssa Parker, Hailey Roberts, Jilica Smith, Jacke Vivian, and Kylee Zarro.

They have accomplished a remarkable feat and deserve every accolade sent their way. I am proud to honor them before this body this evening and am proud to have such motivated hard working young people call my district home.

SERVICEMEMBERS CIVIL RELIEF ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 7, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 100, of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. Considering the hundreds of thousands of people serving our country around the world and the many active duty servicemembers currently returning from the Middle East, this is a very timely bill.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I support strengthening legal protections for those on active duty in the armed forces. Just as we depend on them to defend our country, they depend on us to provide fair and updated benefits and services.

This bill updates laws in place to protect servicemembers from being harmed in civil, financial, or legal proceedings. All too often I hear stories of deployed soldiers receiving calls from family that they cannot afford to pay rent and will face eviction, or that debt is piling up, or that the family cannot break a lease in order to move to a more affordable home. This bill, which has the support of many veterans groups and military organizations, as well as the legal community, would help fix those dire situations for those serving in active duty and their families.

I am pleased to vote in favor of providing these overdue protections revisions. The passage of H.R. 100 will be a testament to our men and women in uniform—and their families—that their country supports and applauds their courageous service.

IN HONOR OF TERRI HAMILTON BROWN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Terri Hamilton Brown, upon the occasion of her retirement as Executive Director of the Cleveland Metropolitan Housing Authority (CMHA).

Ms. Brown's significant impact on the CMHA organization in less than 5 years has positively shifted the focus of housing in Cleveland where it should be—on the people who seek and depend upon affordable housing in Cuyahoga County. Her focus on revitalization, reorganization and renewal of the CMHA agency helped to build bridges within our community to make available quality and affordable homes for low-income families and individuals who are trying to break free of the devastating cycle of poverty.

Because of her leadership, integrity, and outstanding ability to connect easily with others, the CMHA organization has been raised to new levels of administrative efficiency, intercommunity partnership, accountability and true achievement that can be readily seen along our city streets. Ms. Brown's persistence, expertise and complete commitment on behalf of CMHA has produced profound strides in allowing CMHA to carry out its goals and mission as never before.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Terri Hamilton Brown whose vision, hard work and dedication on behalf of CMHA and all the people it serves has left an indelible and significant impact upon our community. Ms. Brown has rebuilt the foundation of a housing agency that successfully serves our most vulnerable citizens, and her work will have a lasting impact on every CMHA tenant and our entire Cleveland neighborhood for years to come. Please join me in wishing Ms. Brown our very best as she moves on to new challenges as Executive Director of University Circle Incorporated in Cleveland.

WHERE ARE THE DETAILS OF NEW FCC REGULATIONS?

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, more than 2 months ago Federal Communications Commission voted 3-2 on changes to the local telephone competition provisions of 1996 Telecommunications Act. This "Triennial Review" is required of this agency by the law we passed.

There has got a better way to regulate our Nation's telecommunications industry right now it is in nothing but a tailspin. The FCC's recent Triennial Review ruling has had many unfortunate portions, and clearly cannot be what the Supreme Court was expecting when it remanded the FCC's earlier decision. They seem to allow some companies the ability to provide telephone and Internet services across the nation with minimal investment, and minimal technicians and employees.

Unfortunately, after 2 months, no one, including the FCC, has seen the final details of these new regulations.

Mr. Speaker, how can regulators vote on provisions that they themselves have not seen? The internal turf battles within this agency go far beyond the walls of the Portals. While bureaucrats argue over how many angels can sit on the head of a pin, real people in this industry are being harmed.

Since January 2000, over 600,000 jobs have been lost in the telecommunications industry, most due to a failed policy of former Chairman Reed Hundt who tried to create artificial local competition.

Since the vote by the FCC on February 20th, many more jobs have been lost. Delay in issuing regulations by the FCC only continues this "meltdown" of one of our premiere growth industries.

I for one do not condone this bureaucratic delay and would hope that the FCC drastically changes its initial ruling from last February.

WELCOMING USS "LINCOLN" HOME

HON. RICK LARSEN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the women and men on board the USS *Abraham Lincoln*.

For nearly ten months the sailors on board the *Lincoln* have been engaged in protecting our homeland. During their deployment—the longest deployment for an aircraft carrier in 30 years—the crew served courageously and selflessly. The brave women and men aboard the *Lincoln* have been embraced by a thankful nation.

Having just returned from the *Lincoln's* homecoming celebration, I can say without a doubt that the City of Everett and Snohomish County are happy to have the sailors home. While seeing them on national television gave me and our nation hope, seeing them in person with their families was even more inspirational.

I want to thank every one of those sailors today for their service, and I also want to thank their families for their service, even though it is a different kind of service. The sailors and their families sacrificed for this country. We owe them a debt of gratitude.

While our technology and know-how far surpassed our opponent's, the true success of Operation Iraqi Freedom was due to the women and men who volunteered for this service. Their commitment, dedication, bravery, and willingness to serve are what define our military might.

To those who served on this historic sailing of the USS *Abraham Lincoln*, I say: You have done your job and you have done it well. Our nation thanks you.

I am honored to be their Representative in Congress. I thank the Speaker for allowing me to speak on the floor today.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY'S HEROES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to five outstanding members of our law enforcement and firefighter communities. Bradley C. Thompson, Michael Jensen, Jim Pollock, Brian Brown, and Edward Lee Teter will be honored tonight at the Valley Community Legal Foundation of the San Fernando Valley Bar Association "Law Day Dinner" honoring "Heroes in Law Enforcement." Each of these fine men have dedicated their lives to the service of the San Fernando Valley and leave a legacy of heroism for all to admire.

Deputy Bradley C. Thompson of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department distinguished himself last December when he fearlessly rescued a driver from a burning vehicle. Deputy Thompson observed a passenger van engulfed in flames on December 10 and immediately responded. Bradley selflessly proceeded into the fire and ultimately freed the driver, undoubtedly saving his life. His heroism is truly admirable.

Los Angeles Police Detective Michael Jensen has excelled at his job since joining the force in 1972. Michael ascended to the rank of Detective in North Hollywood. In that role, Officer Jensen has become a mentor for the division and has solved many critical cases. Michael continues to lead his fellow officers in the Valley and has proven to be an exceptional asset to our law enforcement community.

City of San Fernando Police Detective Jim Pollock began solving narcotics cases in 1979. He has become a vital liaison between local law enforcement and federal police agencies such as the FBI, ATF, and DEA. Detective Pollock was nationally recognized in 1996 for his efforts to dismantle a large interstate drug trafficking organization. Jim is invaluable to our communities efforts to improve the lives of San Fernando Valley residents.

California Highway Patrol officer Brian Brown began assignment in the West Valley in 1998. Over the past five years, Officer Brown has served the Ventura Freeway corridor with bravery. This past January, Brian happened upon a serious accident involving a burning car that had left the roadway. Officer Brown made several attempts to free the driver from the perilous wreck. For his efforts, Brian has been rightly nominated for the Medal of Valor.

Los Angeles City Fire Fighter Edward Lee Teter has served Pacoima from Fire Station 98 since 1982. His engineering skills and leadership have been tremendous assets to the Fire Department and the East Valley. Ed has also volunteered his time and efforts to help rebuild an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico. Mr. Teter mentors many firefighters in his station and was recently recognized as "Officer of the Year" for his unselfish service.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending these fine individuals on their exemplary work for San Fernando Valley residents. Each of them has set a standard for leadership and dedication we can all aspire to. It is my privilege to join the San Fernando Valley Bar Association in recognizing our wealth of outstanding police and fire officers.

EXPRESSING NEED FOR FURTHER ACTION BY FCC FOLLOWING TRIENNIAL REVIEW

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to the Federal Communications Commission's Triennial Review of the 1996 Telecommunications Act adopted over two months ago on February 20, 2003.

Today, the telecommunications industry waits for some certainty and clarity regarding these new rules adopted by the FCC. These rules, dealing with local telephone competition, have yet to be put to paper so that the affected companies can review the order and make business plans accordingly.

The telecommunications sector of our economy is hemorrhaging. Lost jobs, reduced capital investment and loss of investor confidence have affected nearly every company in this sector. The lack of clarity, as to these new rules, is prolonging this downward spiral.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Commission to act on this issue and do it as soon as possible. This sector is too important to be left on hold.

COMMENDING THE WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION PROGRAM AND INCLINE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, On April 26–28, 2003 more than 1200 students from across the United States visited Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that for the second year in a row the class from Incline High School from Incline Village represented the State of Nevada in this national event. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the national finals for the second straight year and through their experience gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The 3-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government.

Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals of our government. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

In addition, I would like to recognize the commitment and support received from all of Incline Village, community organizations and parents. Individually, Bob Heilig, a community volunteer, has helped out a great deal with the students in the program. Judy Simpson, the State Coordinator of the program, and Daniel Wong, the district Coordinator of the Program have also contributed countless hours into making these students better citizens.

It is also important that we recognize the participants of this program individually. I would like to commend David Allison, Rochelle Comeaux, Ashley Hanna, Kristi Cole, David Gregory, Jonathan Shoop, Meghan Flanders, Daniel Herr, Danny St. John, Betsy McCann, Lee Rogers, Britt Van Hees, Elliot Becker, Ali Deroche, Jamie Ellsworth, Brooke Downey, Erin Myrmel, and Meredith Tiras for their hard work and tireless dedication.

The class from Incline High School diligently conducted research and prepared for their participation in the national competition. I again commend these young "constitutional experts" on their work for and commitment to the We the People . . . national finals. They represent the future leaders of our Nation.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS OWNERSHIP DIVERSIFICATION ACT OF 2003

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Telecommunications Ownership Diversification Act of 2003. This bill would level the playing field so that economically disadvantaged businesses owners could enter the telecommunications field. As you know, since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act there has been an unprecedented growth in the Telecom sector, which has often been referred to as the telecommunications revolution. However, conspicuously absent from this revolution has been minority and economically disadvantaged business owners. They have in essence been left on the fringes of this telecommunications revolution. There are many factors attributed to this lack of participation but chief among them is the lack of capital. Because entry into the telecommunications field is extremely capital intensive, many deserving, well qualified small business owners have been denied entry into this vital sector because they lack access to the needed capital to compete with large companies.

My bill would remedy this problem by making minor changes to the existing tax code, so that individuals who are currently under-represented in the ownership of telecommunications would be able to compete on an equal footing with large companies. It would provide

sellers of telecommunications assets a tax deferral when those assets are bought for cash by certain small businesses. And it would provide investors an incentive to consider certain small businesses by providing a reduction in tax on gains from investing in these companies.

Former Chairman Kennard once eloquently stated that "ACCESS" is the civil rights of the 21st century. I believe the Telecommunications Ownership Diversification Act embodies the essence of this statement by making economically disadvantaged small business owners not only consumers of technology but also producers of technology. I hope that all my colleagues will join me in supporting this important initiative.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROCCO BALDELLI

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize native Rhode Islander, Mr. Rocco Baldelli, of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, and his accomplishments during this past month of April. As a rookie this season, Rocco has demonstrated his baseball savvy and athleticism while drawing on experience from his outstanding high school career at the Bishop Hendricken High School. We hope that this achievement serves as an inspiration to Rhode Islanders of all ages.

The Devil Rays's 6th pick in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft, this centerfielder recently, on April 30th, hit his first home run in the major leagues against the Minnesota Twins. This day also marked a special occasion, as Rocco's fortieth home run set a record for the most runs hit by a rookie in the month of April. He now has a fantastic batting average of .364 with 40 hits, and 20 runs batted in. As the House Resolution from the Rhode Island General Assembly I've included notes, Rocco reminds spectators of a young Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, or Willie Mays. I congratulate Rocco on his spectacular achievements so far this season, and look forward to following his continued success.

[H. 6396: State of Rhode Island, in General Assembly, January Session, A.D. 2003]

HOUSE RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING NATIVE RHODE ISLANDER ROCCO BALDELLI FOR SETTING THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL RECORD FOR MOST HITS BY A ROOKIE IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

Introduced By: Representatives T Brien, Reilly, Menard, Laroche, and Murphy.

Date Introduced: May 1, 2003.

Referred To: House read and passed.

Whereas, Rocco Baldelli was a standout baseball player for Bishop Hendricken High and was the 6th player chosen in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft by Tampa Bay Devil Rays; and

Whereas, Rocco plays centerfield and his athleticism and baseball savvy reminds folks of a young Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio or Willie Mays; and

Whereas, On April 30, 2003 Rocco not only hit his first Major League home run against the Minnesota Twins, but his home run also set the Major League Baseball record for most hits by a rookie in the month of April, with 40; and

Whereas Rocco broke the record of 39 previously held by Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki; and

Whereas Rocco, thus far in the season, has a spectacular batting average of .364, with 40 hits and 20 runs batted in; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations hereby congratulates Rocco Baldelli for setting this new Major League Baseball record and wishes him a spectacular baseball career and future induction into the Major 16 League Baseball Hall of Fame.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSE EDUCATION PROMOTION ACT

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Nurses Week and honor the essential work that America's nurses do every day. It is important to raise public awareness of the value of nursing and to help educate the public about the vital roles nurses play in meeting the health care needs of the American people. Nurses constitute the nation's largest group of health care professionals. They serve in hospitals, nursing homes, schools, managed care facilities and community health centers, and their work is invaluable.

Unfortunately, fewer and fewer people are choosing nursing as a career. In recognition of National Nurses Week, I am pleased to join my friend and colleague Congressman ERNIE FLETCHER in introducing important legislation that helps address the nursing shortage by encouraging students to enter the profession. According to the General Accounting Office, between 1993 and 1996 enrollments at two-year associate nursing degree programs dropped 11 percent, while enrollments at three-year diploma programs dropped more than 40 percent. Between 1995 and 1998, enrollments at four-year bachelors programs dropped 19 percent. Even so, the demand for qualified nurses is increasing, and it will only grow as the baby boomers retire. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that more than one million new nurses will be needed by the year 2010.

This crisis threatens to compromise the quality of healthcare in this country. The Department of Health and Human Services reports that there is a "strong and consistent relationship" between nurse staffing and patient health. The GAO reports that between 2000 and 2030, the group of Americans who are 65 years of age and older will double. At the same time, the number of women between 25 and 54—the group that traditionally comprises most of the nursing workforce—is expected to remain the same. Mr. Speaker, today, more than ever before, we need nurses to care for our seniors. Unless we create incentives and opportunities for men and women to choose nursing as a career, this country will face a crisis in the next ten years.

To help address this problem, Congressman ERNIE FLETCHER and I are introducing the bipartisan Nurse Education Promotion Act. Our bill addresses the nursing shortage in a number of important ways. First, it establishes a competitive grant program for associate degree nursing schools to be used for nursing

student recruitment, student scholarships, and the hiring of faculty.

Second, the bill establishes a competitive grant program for professional nurses associations, so that they may create and administer continuing education programs in cooperation with area hospitals and higher education institutions.

The nurses associations would coordinate class work at a central location for which nurses could receive college credit towards a BSN or equivalent degree and/or training in an understaffed and critical nursing specialty. The clinical portion of the continuing education could be done at any of the participating hospitals.

While we support other legislation to alleviate the nursing shortage, we believe that by focusing on the two-year schools our bill gets nurses into the field more quickly. By providing money for continuing education, we hope to ensure that nurses are able to meet the changing and increasingly complex demands of our healthcare system. As we celebrate National Nurses Week, we hope our colleagues will join us in our efforts to alleviate the nursing shortage and head off a major healthcare crisis that is just on the horizon.

IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC ORGANIZATION OF STUDENTS IN TECHNOLOGY/SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AT NEW JERSEY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology (HOST), the student chapter of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). They were honored for their outstanding achievements at the HOST/SHPE Gala Banquet on April 30, 2003.

The Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers represents a group of extremely talented and dedicated students, who, at a young age, have already shown amazing promise and success. Under the leadership of Student President Daniel Calles, HOST/SHPE attained the second highest membership of a Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers student chapter nationwide and was responsible for the third-highest attendance to the 2002 Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Eastern Technical Career Conference.

Moises Cordero, Daniel Nunez, and Randy Weston, three students who form the Web Site Competition Team, made new strides for New Jersey Institute of Technology and for aspiring students when they won first place for the first ever Web Site Competition at the 2002 Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Eastern Technical Career Conference. Their success illustrates not only the strength of NJIT, but the drive and potential of these promising students.

Under the guidance of Carlomango Ontaneda, the SHPE chapter advisor at NJIT has helped to empower many promising students achieve their goals at NJIT and beyond.

As Assistant Director for Recruitment at New Jersey Institute of Technology's Educational Opportunity Program, Mr. Ontaneda continues to demonstrate his commitment to increasing educational opportunities and helping students attain their dreams. He was recently the recipient of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers Eastern Technical Career Conference Higher Education Award.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the achievements of Mr. Ontaneda and the talented students of the Hispanic Organization of Students in Technology/Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers at New Jersey Institute of Technology. I applaud their dedication and their success, and wish them the best as they head towards an already bright future.

THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
OF ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL
CHURCH IN TOLEDO, OHIO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, May 31, 2003 begins the centennial celebration of All Saints Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio. I am pleased to commemorate this momentous and joyous occasion by sharing it with my colleagues and for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On June 3, 1903, five people under the leadership of Reverend William A. Grier founded the church as an Episcopal Mission Church. It was the only Negro Mission in the Toledo Episcopal Region. The church became a parish of its own in 1952. Since then, it has grown and remained a neighborhood anchor. It even experienced a rebirth in the last decade, with a new sanctuary and office in 1998, and a new parish hall in 2002.

In addition to its celebration dinner, the church has invited the members of neighboring churches to spend an evening with them in prayer, song, and scripture. On Tuesday, June 3, All Saints will observe its 100th birthday with a Holy Eucharist Service.

As it has since its founding 100 years ago, All Saints Episcopal Church continues to follow the words of Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven." It remains a beacon of hope and a sanctuary of praise while its congregants forge ahead on a path begun a century ago and built upon through successive generations. We congratulate All Saints on reaching this milestone, and look forward to its life and work in a new century.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. WILLIAM
MECKLENBURG POLK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring Mr. William Mecklenburg Polk, who has made outstanding contributions to American society. William Polk

has truly distinguished himself throughout an extraordinary career in which he has served as a leader in the field of secondary education or almost four decades. During this time he has been an educator, coach, and mentor to thousands of students and colleagues.

For the last quarter century, William Polk has served with distinction as the headmaster of the Groton School in Groton, Massachusetts, one of the most rigorous and respected secondary schools anywhere in the world. This spring, he will preside over his final graduation ceremony before he and his wife, LuAnn, start their new life in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in what will no doubt be a very active retirement.

William Polk led the Groton School—his alma mater as well as that of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Governor and Ambassador Averell Harriman, countless leaders in every walk of American life, and several distinguished members of this body—with extraordinary wisdom and compassion throughout his tenure as Headmaster. His leadership helped assure that Groton's transition to a co-educational environment was successfully completed; helped usher the School through the onset of the digital age; and oversaw its entry into a new century. Fully half of the thousands of living Groton alumni know William Polk as their headmaster.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Trinity College, William Polk is an accomplished theologian who earned a Master of Divinity degree at Union Theological Seminary after receiving a Rockefeller Fellowship. He has excelled in all the many roles in which he has served throughout his career—as a headmaster, teacher, theologian, coach, student, husband, father, athlete and role model for thousands of young men and women. William Polk truly embodies the Groton Scholl motto: "To Serve Is to Reign."

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues will join me and two distinguished alumni of the Groton School, the Honorable BOBBY SCOTT and the Honorable JIM COOPER, in recognizing the extraordinary achievements and contributions to American life made by Mr. William Mecklenburg Polk.

He is indeed an American of whom all of our colleagues and all Americans should be very proud.

IN MEMORY OF CONGRESSMAN
JOHN G. DOW

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize a distinguished former Member of this chamber, Congressman John G. Dow, who represented the lower Hudson Valley region of New York in the 89th, 90th and 92nd Congresses. Congressman Dow passed away on March 11, just two months shy of his ninety-eighth birthday.

I had the privilege to know Congressman Dow during my early career in politics. Others considered him a maverick, but I admired his courage, his honesty and his integrity. From his first days as a member of this chamber, he distinguished himself by taking principled stands on the issues, even though his stances endangered his political future.

Most famously, he is remembered as one of only seven Members to take a stand against the escalation of the Vietnam War, voting to end funding for military operations in Vietnam in 1965. In one of the first votes he cast in the House he bucked his party and the very popular president who had been largely responsible for Dow's election.

It would not be until many years later that Dow's vote and his activism against the Vietnam War would be regarded as prescient. As a local editorial writer pointed out some years after the controversial vote, "Dow was a dove from the start, not one who evolved to the point of view."

No less important was Dow's strong stance against the constitutional amendment to prohibit burning the American flag. Dow wisely argued that such an amendment would actually amend the Constitution twice—by adding a new amendment and by curtailing the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed in the First Amendment, that amendment which was most prized by our founding fathers. Ultimately, that vote cost him re-election in 1968, but I cannot imagine a more honorable way to lose one's seat in Congress than in defense of the integrity of our Constitution.

During his first two consecutive terms in the House, from 1965 to 1969, Congressman Dow supported some of the most important legislation of his generation. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Civil Rights movement, traveling to Jackson, Mississippi and Selma, Alabama to appear with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in support of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965, and fighting for funding for school integration plans. He worked hard for the passage of Johnson's Great Society programs, for the establishment of rural and community development programs for rural areas, and voted to provide minimum wage protection for farm workers. Always, Dow argued that the military buildup must not crowd out such critical domestic needs.

When New York voters returned him to the House in the 1970 election, his committee assignments allowed him to shift his focus toward foreign policy and environmental protection. His record on human rights for peoples around the world was without parallel, recommending that foreign aid be directed toward "peaceful objectives . . . and not helping other countries carry on war." He fought the Nixon Administration on bringing the Vietnam conflict to a close, worked to increase funding for the Peace Corps, and sought trade restrictions on apartheid-era South Africa. Congressman Dow was also instrumental in strengthening the Federal Environmental Pesticide Act of 1971, which was reported out of the Agriculture Committee riddled with loopholes to benefit polluters, and the Federal Water Pollution Amendments of 1972. He introduced legislation to establish the Council for Environmental Quality, to create a permanent House committee on the environment, and to require the federal government to use only recycled paper.

When Dow lost his bid for re-election in 1972, he did not ease gently into retirement. On the contrary, he remained just as active and engaged in civic life as during his years in Congress. He ran for Congress three more times unsuccessfully, and then devoted his efforts to the burgeoning antinuclear movement. Through the early 1980s, he was a vocal op-

ponent and stalwart activist opposing the Reagan Administration's defense policies. He continued to argue aggressively that out of control military spending was hurting the economy and denying Americans adequate health care and education.

Throughout his long and full life, John Dow never failed to be on the side of peace, justice and economic opportunity for all. He devoted his life to these principles and stuck to them even when it was not politically convenient to do so. His moral compass never strayed and his compassion for others never wavered. For me, he embodied the highest ideals of representation in this body.

I believe Congressman Dow's former colleague and esteemed veteran of this body, the late Congressman Morris Udall (D-Ariz) said it best: "Vigorous, kind, candid, honest with himself, his constituents and his colleagues—John Dow is a most remarkable man and public service. I am proud to be his friend."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 6, 2003, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed rollcall votes 159, 160, and 161.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 159, 160, and 161.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXPAND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AUTHORITY FOR NUNN- LUGAR COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is of utmost importance to our national security and our future as a global community. My legislation will expand the Defense Department's authority for Nunn-Lugar cooperative threat reduction programs outside of the former Soviet Union. My bill will authorize efforts to dismantle and destroy nuclear, chemical, and other weapons of mass destruction in nations such as Pakistan, India, North Korea, China, Iran, and Iraq. These programs have a single objective: to reduce stockpiles of nuclear (and non-nuclear) materials in both military and nonmilitary facilities that may be converted to weapons of mass destruction to prevent such highly dangerous materials from being stolen or sold to terrorist organizations.

It is critical for our national security to ensure that terrorists do not have easy access to weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. Over a decade ago, the landmark Nunn-Lugar cooperative threat reduction legislation, the initiative of Senators Nunn and Lugar, was signed into law. This initiative was born out of necessity to ensure that the nuclear arsenal of the Soviet Union would not fall into the wrong hands as the Soviet empire

was coming apart. Throughout the latter half of the Cold War, the Soviet and the US camps had achieved mutually assured destruction capability, which had resulted in an uneasy yet stable security with regard to our nuclear arsenals. The enemy was clear and identifiable. However, the demise of the Soviet empire ushered in a new post-Cold War period with unclear and unidentifiable threats, and a new and very real sense of urgency, instability and insecurity.

At this critical juncture, Congress established the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program in 1991, authorizing the use of Defense Department funds to assist with the safe and secure transportation, storage, and dismantlement of nuclear, chemical and other weapons in the former Soviet Union. In the ten years since, while much has been done to dismantle Russia's and the former Soviet Republics' nuclear weapons, the dangers persist, and in some cases have increased.

In addition to the traditional nuclear weapons and materials concerns in the former Soviet Union, there are new and emerging threats from nuclear proliferators such as North Korea, Pakistan, and China, as well as Libya, Iran, Iraq, and stateless terrorist organizations headed by individuals such as Osama Bin Laden, that are actively in search of their next deal on nuclear weapons technology and components. It is this latter type of threat—the unclear, mobile, and not easily identifiable source of threat—that compels us to continue and increase our efforts to secure nuclear weapons and materials wherever they may be found.

The world has changed, and with it so to have the threats. We cannot afford to cut back on such worthwhile programs as Nunn-Lugar and other non-proliferation programs. There is much work to be done, and we must be increasingly vigilant in an ever-changing world with new threats that go far beyond nuclear weapons.

Significant progress has been made thus far, as reported in the May 2001 Cooperative Threat Reduction Scorecard issued by the Department of Defense. With regard to the established CTR Baseline attributed to Russia under the START process, the Nunn-Lugar program has successfully deactivated 5,504 of the 13,300 Warheads; destroyed 423 of the 1,473 ICBMs; eliminated 383 of the 831 ICBM Silos; eliminated 85 of the 167 Bombers; destroyed 483 of the 487 Long-Range Nuclear ALCMs; eliminated 352 of the 728 SLBM Launchers; eliminated 209 of the 936 SLBMs; destroyed 19 of the 48 SSBNs; and sealed all 194 Nuclear Test Tunnels. In addition, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus—the three former Soviet nuclear powerhouses—are nuclear weapons free, according to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the Department of Defense.

The Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program can and should be credited for significant achievements in reducing threats from the former Soviet Union. However, continuing economic and social weaknesses in Russia, coupled with an eroding early warning system, poorly secured Russian nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials, and poorly paid Russian weapons scientists and security personnel, increase the threat of mass destruction on an unprecedented scale, especially if they fall into the hands of terrorists or rogue nations.

Mr. Speaker, now more than ever we must make a fundamental shift in the way we think about nuclear weapons, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and our national security. My bill will authorize the Department of Defense to expand their cooperative threat reduction programs outside of the former Soviet Union.

URGING THE FCC TO RELEASE ITS TRIENNIAL REVIEW

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the inaction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding the Triennial Review of the 1996 Telecommunications Act adopted on February 20, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of where members come down on the issue of local telephone competition, one thing is clear to all of us; NO ONE has seen the order which was adopted more than two months ago. If the House of Representatives considers legislation pertaining to this matter, we should have the actual document to review before we vote.

The FCC adopted rules dealing with local telephone competition more than two months ago that have yet to be put to paper so that the affected companies can review the order, and the telecommunications industry is hemorrhaging. Jobs, capital investment and investor equity are being squandered at an unprecedented rate. This lack of clarity is prolonging this downward spiral. Many have referred to the chaos and uncertainty in the industry caused by this order. While some of this may be rhetoric, every day that goes by adds more credence to the fact that the delay in the release of this order is detrimental to the telecommunications industry.

I urge the FCC to release its Triennial Review as soon as possible.

YOUNG ISRAEL HONORS LANCE KAWESCH AND EMILY STEIN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, on this coming Sunday, May 11, Young Israel of Brookline, Massachusetts will honor Lance Kawesch and Emily Stein, "for the years of excellent service, tireless devotion and total dedication to Young Israel and our community."

Mr. Kawesch and Ms. Stein joined Young Israel shortly after their marriage, and have been hard working and valuable members of the Congregation ever since. Lance has served as President, and Emily is the Office Manager and Director of Operations. Between them, they have organized, supported, and contributed to a wide range of the important educational, religious, charitable and cultural activities which mark the work of Young Israel. Young Israel is a vibrant part of the district

which I represent, and I am pleased to have the chance to join the members of Young Israel in saluting the important work of Lance Kawesch and Emily Stein.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BELARUS AND CHECHNYA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have followed with particular concern both the deadly climate in Chechnya and the deterioration of human rights in Belarus. Such violations of basic human rights deserve focused criticism, and it is appropriate that the agenda of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights included resolutions on each situation.

On April 17, the U.N. Commission voted 23-14 with 16 abstentions to approve a U.S.-cosponsored resolution urging the Belarusian authorities to investigate "fully and impartially" credible reports that senior government officials were involved in the disappearances in 1999 and 2000 of leading opposition figures and a journalist.

I have followed these cases closely and have become increasingly frustrated at the Belarusian regime's intransigence in meaningfully investigating these disappearances. Here in Washington and at OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meetings in Paris and Berlin, I have had occasion to meet with the wives of the disappeared. These meetings have been heart-wrenching. The cases of their husbands—who disappeared in 1999 and 2000 and are presumed to have been murdered—offer a chilling glimpse into the nature of the regime of Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko, a regime that has the worst human rights record in Europe today. In February, I introduced H.R. 854, the Belarus Democracy Act, designed to bolster democratic development in that beleaguered country, and I am pleased that the State Department authorization bill approved yesterday by the House International Relations Committee includes key provisions of the Belarus Democracy Act. This bill encourages sanctions against the Belarusian regime until certain conditions are met, including a full accounting of these tragic disappearances.

The Belarusian people deserve to live in a society where democratic principles and human rights are respected and the rule of law is paramount, and I believe that the passage of the U.N. Human Rights Commission resolution is an important step towards that end.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could report that the U.N. Commission on Human Rights had acted with equal conscience on the issue of Chechnya. We all know the desperate human rights situation in that war-torn region of the Russian Federation. Since the Chechen war reignited in 1999, international and domestic Russian human rights organizations have documented the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by elements of the Russian military, as well as extrajudicial killings, abuse

of prisoners, kidnaping, rape, and extortion of civilians. According to official statistics, 2,800 persons are missing in Chechnya; mutilated bodies of young Chechen males turn up almost daily. A representative of the respected human rights organization Memorial reported at a recent Helsinki Commission briefing that "one of the recent tendencies is to explode the corpses" in order to prevent identification. Needless to say, all of this is in clear violation of the Geneva Convention and the OSCE Code of Conduct during internal conflicts.

What's left of the Chechen capital of Grozny after Russian artillery shelling has been compared to the ruins of Stalingrad in 1943. According to the U.N., there are 92,000 internally displaced persons forced to flee from the fighting, with around 17,000 living in tent camps in neighboring Ingushetia.

Chechen forces are not entirely blameless. There are credible reports of their executing prisoners and using non-combatants as human shields. They have also assassinated pro-Moscow Chechen officials. The U.S. Government has placed three militant groups involved in the Chechen resistance on its list of terrorist groups.

Still, is this an excuse for Russia's savage war against the civilian population?

Despite all the documentation and eyewitness testimony on egregious human rights violations committed in Chechnya, the Commission on Human Rights rejected by a vote of 15-21 an even-handed European Union resolution expressing deep concern at the reported ongoing violations of international law in Chechnya. I note that the U.S. delegation did not cosponsor the resolution, though it did support it when the measure came to a vote. We should not be surprised that China, Sudan and Zimbabwe voted against the resolution. I do find it disconcerting, though, that the delegations of Armenia and Ukraine are in that less than distinguished company.

Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick, Head of the U.S. Delegation to the U.N. Commission noted: "The United States believes it important that the Commission address the serious human rights abuses that have occurred in Chechnya. We recognize Russia's right to defend its territorial integrity and itself against terrorism. The broader conflict in Chechnya cannot be resolved militarily and requires a political solution. Human rights violations by Russian forces in Chechnya need to be curtailed, and abusers held accountable."

So the people of Chechnya continue to suffer, and the U.N. Commission on Human Rights looks the other way.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2003 through May 1, 2003, due to medical reasons, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 146 through 158.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 146, 147, 148, 150, and 158; and I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, and 157.

H.R. 1350—IMPROVING EDUCATION
RESULTS FOR CHILDREN WITH
DISABILITIES ACT OF 2003

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1350. When Congress made the leap to dramatically change the way the nation treats the education of disabled students in 1975 when it created IDEA, it made a commitment to providing a free, quality education to children who previously had been neglected by the system. This commitment to fund 40 percent of the excess cost of education for children with disabilities was unprecedented. Six million children who had once been forced to seek private education or forego education altogether were given the opportunity that so many children take for granted. At least, that was the idea.

Unfortunately, this body has continued to neglect these children by refusing to fully fund the program. Today we had the opportunity to show these children, their parents, and their educators how serious we are about their education—but passing H.R. 1350 will be a failure to do that. Not only does the bill fail to fund IDEA above the 18 percent we currently give to the 40 percent Congress promised, but it actually sets back the education of children with disabilities. In fact, this bill weakens the civil rights protections that were initially established with IDEA, undermines parental involvement and even creates the potential for disabled students to be punished for actions related to their disabilities. When the Majority promises to leave no child behind, does it make an exception for children with disabilities?

Many groups, including the PTA, the National Mental Health Association, and the Children's Defense Fund oppose this bill because it falls short of improving education for children with disabilities. It has become clear that this bill favors school administrators—not children, parents, and the teachers who work so hard to give disabled children an equitable education.

I strongly support a good public education for all children and I believe that every child is entitled to the same. Those who passed IDEA in 1975 shared that view, and they set a goal to give students with disabilities the treatment and education they deserve. Unfortunately, this bill fails to live up to what the original authors of IDEA intended, and I must vote against it. However, I am committed to special education and I will continue to work to pass a bill that accomplishes the intended goals set out under the original Act.

REMEMBRANCE ON MOTHER'S DAY

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the Mother's Day weekend, I rise today to remember the mothers of missing children, or mothers whose children's lives have tragically ended in violence. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Most of you remember the story of the two Oregon City girls who disappeared on their way to school last year: Ashley Pond in January and Miranda Gaddis in March.

Months later after a lengthy search by law enforcement and the community, the entire Nation was horrified as the FBI and Oregon City Police dug up the backyard of a home neighboring their apartment complex to discover the girls' bodies.

Ashley and Miranda were just 13 years old when their precious young lives ended in violence. I think of them often.

Throughout the last year, my staff and I have gotten to know Michelle Duffey, the mother of Miranda. She has survived horrors unimaginable except to those who have lived through this kind of terrible tragedy themselves. Less than 1 year after learning of her daughter's fate, Michelle is trying to rebuild a life for herself and her family.

Just consider for a moment, that throughout her grieving process, Michelle has been recognized in the grocery store and on the street. She continues to be called upon for numerous media interviews. This sort of notoriety must be very, very hard for her and her family to endure. And yet Michelle has taken that attention, gained some strength from the community's support, and has used that courageously to advocate on behalf of missing children and their families. I admire her fortitude. And I greatly appreciate her public service.

I will continue to stand by Michelle Duffey in her efforts to prevent this type of tragedy from happening to someone else's child.

Each year, nearly 800,000 children are reported missing according to the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. This includes children who run away, who are abducted by family members and the most serious and deadly kidnappings, those by strangers. I am proud to be a member of the Missing Children's Caucus that supported the passage of the national AMBER Alert plan, that takes important steps to prevent such tragedies as happened in Oregon City. No legislation will ever prevent 100 percent of the atrocious crimes perpetrated against our Nation's children, but it is up to us to try. Michelle Duffey has been one of its strongest and best advocates.

This Sunday, I will remember Miranda and Ashley's mothers in my thoughts as we honor our Nation's mothers. I ask you to keep in mind all the mothers across America who are missing their children at this time, and to offer your thoughts and prayers for them and their children.

NAVY JUNIOR ROTC

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise with pride today to recognize an outstanding Navy Junior ROTC from Corpus Christi, Texas, in my congressional district.

The Flour Bluff High School's Navy Junior ROTC is easily the very best in the country, having won the national title among all Navy Junior ROTC programs in the country for the past seven years. So they are used to being known as the "best of the best."

This week, they made their domination of Junior ROTC competitions complete by winning competitions against units from every branch of the service. For the first time, both the armed and unarmed drill teams from Flour Bluff won the all-service competition against teams from all other military branches.

The 33 students from the Coastal Bend of Texas who won the competition of 4,000 students on 155 teams were simply spectacular at the All Service Grand National Championship competition in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Both young women and men have competed for the championship—and both have won. The young women of Junior ROTC won the national title in 2000. The following year, the young men took the championship. But this year, they accomplished a new goal by both taking home the championship.

They are judged on drills, precision marching, personal appearance and their knowledge regarding current events. While these are exceptional young people who are outstanding young leaders, they have a visionary example of leadership in their unit Commander, Armando Solis.

Commander Solis has nurtured these teenagers through seven consecutive titles for the Flour Bluff High School Navy Junior ROTC. It is largely through his dedicated guidance that Flour Bluff's Navy Junior ROTC has been extremely successful in their national competitions.

I am particularly proud of these young people under Commander Solis' guidance. ROTC is a feeder program for tomorrow's officer corps, and there are a number of people who are serving us in uniform today who came through this particular program, and from Junior ROTC programs across the nation.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the Flour Bluff High School's Navy Junior ROTC for their excellence.

A BILL TO PERMANENTLY EXTEND THE WORK OPPORTUNITY AND WELFARE-TO-WORK TAX CREDITS AND IMPROVE THE PROGRAMS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleague from New York, Mr. RANGEL, in introducing our bill, "Encouraging Work Act of 2003." The bill would permanently extend the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) and the Welfare-to-Work Credit (W-t-W) and make other changes discussed below. Both programs are currently due to expire on December 31, 2003. The credits are tax incentives designed to encourage employers to hire public assistance recipients and other individuals with barriers to employment. They are important tools in our efforts to help needy individuals become productive employees.

Improvements in the programs the past few years have made WOTC and W-t-W far more effective in providing employment, with training, for our nation's disadvantaged. Such training can be costly and the credits provide an incentive to employers to hire the disadvantaged and provide the needed training while

offsetting costs associated with the latter effort.

Of course, many believe the programs would be even more successful if they could be extended indefinitely. We hear from both employers and state job services, which administer the programs, that the continued uncertainty surrounding short-term extensions impedes expanded participation and improvements in program administration. If the programs were made permanent, employers, both large and small, would be induced to expand their recruitment efforts and encourage the states to improve the administration of the programs. Such a change would benefit everyone.

WOTC provides employers a 40-percent tax credit on the first \$6,000 of wages paid to those from targeted groups who are working at least 400 hours, or a partial credit of 25 percent for those working 120–399 hours. W–t–W provides employers a 35-percent tax credit on the first \$10,000 of wages for those leaving welfare and working 400 hours in the first year. In the second year, the W–t–W credit is 50 percent of the first \$10,000 of wages paid to qualifying employees.

In addition to making the credits permanent, our bill would simplify WOTC and W–t–W, as President Bush recommended in the Administration's FY 2004 budget, by combining them into one credit and making the rules for computing credits simpler. Among other changes, the bill would expand the food stamp category by increasing the age limit from 24 to 39 years of age for members of food stamp households and residents of enterprise zones or renewal communities ("a designated community resident"). The current ceiling of 24 limits the availability of individuals in these targeted categories. There are many individuals, over the age of 24, who could be gainfully employed if the age limit was expanded. Currently, the programs do an excellent job of helping women on welfare enter into the workforce. Over 80 percent of the hires in the programs are women. However, men from welfare households face a greater barrier to employment because they are no longer eligible for welfare once they turn 18. However, they can qualify up to age 24 if they are a member of a household receiving food stamps or live in an enterprise zone or renewal community. We believe increasing the age limit to 39 will provide employers an incentive to hire more "at-risk" males and provide them with a sense of personal responsibility and self-esteem in assuming their responsibilities as parents and members of society.

More than 80 percent of the 2.2 million individuals hired under the WOTC and W–t–W programs were previously dependent on public assistance programs. However, during periods of slow economic growth and rising unemployment, employers have more hiring options. The jobs skills of those coming off welfare today—many because they have reached their 5-year life time eligibility ceiling—are even less than the first generation that left the welfare rolls. Because of the high cost of recruiting, training, supervising low-skilled individuals, many employers will look elsewhere for employees if these programs are not renewed before the end of the year. WOTC and W–t–W are proven incentives for encouraging employers to seek employees from the targeted groups.

We urge our colleagues to join us in co-sponsoring this important legislation to extend and improve the two programs.

HONORING DELONE BRADFORD-GLOVER

HON. ROB BISHOP

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor a tremendous individual and important representative of all who have worked so hard to preserve historic sites across the State of Utah. Delone Bradford-Glover has devoted a remarkable amount of time, energy and heart to the noble cause of preserving the Golden Spike National Historic Site. I wish to commend her unselfish devotion and dedication.

Delone began working with Bernice Gibbs Anderson over 50 years ago. Together they were the champions of the preservation of the Golden Spike. Delone was instrumental in assuring that the Last Spike Site at Promontory Summit received national recognition through its inclusion in the National Park System. Delone was President of the Golden Spike Association for more than 25 years. In that time Delone had the tremendous responsibility of planning every anniversary celebration and event, including recruiting re-enactment participants and ceremony guests, until retiring as active President two years ago. Specifically admirable was her work on the Centennial Celebration in 1969 when she lobbied for the anniversary celebration to take place and worked so hard to make it such a success. In 1994, Delone set out to save the Brigham City Depot and it was her work that encouraged the Union Pacific Railroad to deed that land to the Golden Spike Association on the 125th Anniversary year.

I take great pleasure in honoring this amazing citizen for her service to the Golden Spike. Her selfless devotion has impacted and will continue to effect countless generations of those in her community and the State of Utah as a whole. I would like to thank Delone Bradford-Glover for truly being the "Heart of the Golden Spike."

RECOGNIZING ANTHONY K. SITTER ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize my constituent, Anthony K. Sitter of Bowling Green, OH, who recently accepted his appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Anthony will soon graduate from Bowling Green High School. During his high school career, he has maintained a 3.9 grade point average. He is an accomplished athlete, earning multiple varsity letters in swimming. And, he has demonstrated his strong leadership ability, serving as class president and as a delegate to Buckeye Boys State. He is a member of the National Honor Society.

Anthony Sitter can be very proud of his many accomplishments. He is a credit to his family, his school, and his community. By accepting his appointment, Anthony is accepting a unique challenge.

The Academy is the pinnacle of leadership development for the United States Navy. As a member of the U.S. Brigade of Midshipmen, he will face a most demanding academic curriculum and physical regimen. He will live, study and prepare in an environment where strong leadership thrives, individual achievement is expected, and personal integrity is demanded.

Mr. Speaker, General John W. Vessey, Jr. once wrote, "The Nation's ability to remain free and at peace depends in no small measure on whether we will continue to inspire our youth to serve."

I am confident that Anthony Sitter has the character and ability to excel at the U.S. Naval Academy. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his very important service to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH NEUFFER

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a Elizabeth Neuffer, a Boston Globe journalist who died in a car accident today while covering the conflict in Iraq.

Elizabeth was a well-respected journalist with the Globe, New England's largest daily newspaper. During the 1980s, she won a reputation for courageous reporting for her work on war crimes in the Balkans. She went on to report from Rwanda after the genocide; from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq during the first Gulf War; and from the Soviet Union during the transition from Gorbachev to Yeltsin.

Her most recent assignment was the United Nations, and after covering the war in Afghanistan, she underwent training for reporters to be imbedded in Iraq and was helping to cover the ongoing conflict with her colleagues at the Globe. She was passionate about covering the reconstruction effort, and at the time of her death she was working on a story about efforts to remove the influence of the Ba'ath Party.

Her unique perspective as a reporter covering the realities of genocide helped her transfer an abstract debate about war crimes prosecution into a book, "The Key to My Neighbor's House: Seeking Justice in Bosnia and Rwanda."

Among her many awards while serving as the Globe's European bureau chief were the Courage in Journalism Award, as well as the Edward R. Murrow Fellow of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Elizabeth once said, "The truth may be hazardous to those who tell it, but truth is not dangerous, disinformation is. As I saw in Bosnia and Rwanda, it is propaganda that fans the flames of hatred."

Elizabeth will be missed not only by her family, friends, and those who loved her, but by those of us who had the privilege to work with her in the world of politics and journalism.

A TRIBUTE TO LILLIE MAE EVANS
FEREBEE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Lillie Mae Evans Ferebee in recognition of her 100th birthday celebration and her commitment to her community.

Lillie Mae Evans Ferebee, the eldest daughter of the late Willie and Sarah Evans, was born on May 2, 1903 in Greenborough, Georgia. She is the only child from a family of six children. Mrs. Ferebee moved to New York in 1937 where she met and married her husband, the late Livingston Ferebee.

Although God never blessed them with biological children, they raised many family members and neighborhood children who have risen to become professionals throughout the great city of New York. The special gifts from God are her beloved daughter, Sharon Borno and her granddaughter, Yolanda Denise Taylor. Mrs. Ferebee has been the mother of these ladies from the time of their births.

Many beautiful people are found in the Borough of Brooklyn, including Ms. Ferebee herself, who at the age of 100 years old resides in the Brevoort Housing Development of the Bedford Stuyvesant community. Mrs. Ferebee is affectionately known as "Duchess" to her family.

A retired supervisor with the federal government at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Mrs. Ferebee has lived her life with the axiom of helping those who are unable to care for themselves. She graduated and completed her early education in Greensborough, Georgia. Mrs. Ferebee has traveled throughout the United States as a motivational speaker. Prior to her retirement, Mrs. Ferebee administered care to many children in her neighborhood, enabling them to complete college and become business and health professionals, lawyers, and doctors. She has advocated on tenant issues for over 30 (thirty) years in the Brevoort Development. Mrs. Ferebee has been well respected for her role as captain of the Brevoort Tenant Association. Over the years, she has received numerous awards from the New York City Housing Authority, the Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, the Eastern Order, and many other community organizations.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to salute Ms. Lillie Mary Evans Ferebee on her 100th birthday celebration. She is truly a gift from God and an honest and virtuous woman! As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman.

OROFINO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and praise the students of the Orofino High School Government Class for participating in the "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution" national contest. The following students were recognized as the

state winners: Tarina Anderson, Kelly Burge, Rachel Burrell, Sam Christiansen, Kayleen Copeland, Melissa Dangman, David Dobyns, Desirae Downing, Whitney Gochmour, Maggie Hall, Holly Jones, Mallory Larson, Hana Nedoma, Terra Rintelen, Brianna Savage, Jessica Silva, and Kyle Stanley. They competed in the national contest in Washington, D.C., displaying their knowledge of the government institutions of the United States and the ideals upon which our democratic form of government is based. Their teacher, Cindy Wilson, also should be commended for her commitment to teaching Constitutional principles and instilling an appreciation for civic participation in her students.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DOUGLAS R.
JACKSON

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Douglas R. Jackson in celebration of his 25th anniversary with the Community Baptist Church.

Dr. Jackson founded the Community Baptist Church in Saginaw, Michigan in 1981, and has been the President of Michigan Association of Christian Schools since 1990. He is a board member of the Independent Fundamental Baptist Association of Michigan and the International Baptist Mission in Tempe, Arizona. He is also chairman of the board at Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown, Wisconsin, and treasurer of the board for Baptist World Mission in Huntsville, Alabama. Dr. Jackson's further accomplishments include his legislative lobbying for Christian education, and national recognition for the Michigan Association of Christian Schools.

I am honored today to recognize Dr. Douglas R. Jackson for his many accomplishments, and to wish him the best on the celebration of his 25 years with the Community Baptist Church.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 1298, UNITED STATES
LEADERSHIP AGAINST HIV/AIDS,
TUBERCULOSIS, AND MALARIA
ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 1, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H.R. 1298, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003.

This bill provides desperately needed funds to combat the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, and we must act now.

The fact that such a bill is before us today is due to the efforts of grassroots organizations all over this country. I would like to personally thank Thomas Peterson and the Aids Services Foundation of Orange County. Their efforts save lives, and I applaud their commitment and compassion.

In addition to the funding provided in the bill, this legislation also advances the so-called ABC methodology for prevention: Abstinence, Be Faithful, use Condoms—in that order.

Apparently this is not enough for the right wing of the Republican Party. They will offer amendments to make it an abstinence only bill. I urge this body to reject such proposals.

Mr. HYDE has done a fantastic job in drafting a bill that should have broad bipartisan support, and I commend him and thank him for his efforts. He has set forth a reasonable and sane program for prevention of HIV/AIDS, and we should not let uncompromising ideology prevent us from saving the lives of millions of people.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY UNIT 364
AWARD RECIPIENTS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary group of men and women in Northern Virginia. This year, members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 364 in Woodbridge, Virginia have received several awards and honors and several members are serving as officers at District and Department level. These accomplished individuals are valued contributors to the Northern Virginia community, and I commend them for their efforts.

As the 2002–2003 16th District President, Barbara A. Stevenson presided over 11 Units in the Northern Zone, Department of Virginia.

Kara Byrd served as the Commander of Post 364 and was honored twice for her hard work this year. She was the recipient of the Department of Virginia Member of the Year Award for 2001–2002. She also earned the Kathleen Seefeldt Community Service Award from the Dale City Civic Association.

Devon Cabot served as Honorary Junior Vice President, Southern Division for 2002–2003.

Laura Carruthers served as Department of Virginia Junior Secretary for 2002–2003.

Unit 364 Junior President Meaghan Cabot received the Department of Virginia Junior Member of the Year Award for 2001–2002.

Receiving the American Legion Auxiliary National Award for the most outstanding Unit Community Service Program in the Southern Division for 2001–2002 was Cathy Carruthers, also the Department of Virginia National Security Chairman for 2002–2003.

Another multiple award winner, Marcia Wheatley, served as Department of Virginia Legislative Chairman for 2002–2003. She was chosen for the American Legion Auxiliary National Award for the most outstanding Unit Legislative Program in the Southern Division for 2001–2002 and also received the Catherine Spellane Citizen of the Year Award presented by the Dale City Civic Association.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women who serve the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 364. Their constant efforts on behalf of the community, state, and nation deserve our highest praise. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this group of extraordinary citizens.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STRATEGIC MATERIALS ACT OF 2003

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Strategic Materials Act of 2003, legislation that would ensure that we retain the ability and capacity to produce strategic metals, so important to our defense and many other vital industries in the United States.

I am a big supporter of free trade, but I also understand that the United States must take care that it does not become completely and totally dependent on another country for materials that could be vital to our defense. One such class of materials for which I believe we need to take care to maintain the capacity to produce is the raw material used to make titanium, and other nickel-based alloys, that are absolutely vital to maintaining our military, as well as important to our aerospace industry and other areas of our economy as well. Let me be clear, as a supporter of free trade, I do not suggest the U.S. erect barriers to the trade of these materials, I just suggest that we should not unilaterally dismantle and offer preferences to the importation of these specific materials. My bill will ensure that these specific import-sensitive strategic materials are not eligible for Generalized System of Preferences or GSP designation.

The GSP designation is designed to promote economic growth and development in designated developing countries, and I support using trade as a means to stimulate a developing country's exports and economy. Trade can be a better way to provide assistance, because it helps to develop a country rather than just providing direct aid. That said, I have concerns that GSP is not appropriate for certain strategic materials, especially given that other countries already have significant market share in some of these materials. Extending GSP to these strategic materials could very well mean the United States loses the capacity to produce these materials domestically, as well as lose jobs. The reason for GSP, to provide assistance to develop an export industry in a developing country, does not appear appropriate when a foreign country or countries already control a significant share of the U.S. market.

The legislation I am introducing today sends a clear message that, given the importance of maintaining a strong military and the importance to other sectors of the economy, we should not hasten to offer preferences, for that risks complete dependence on foreign countries for strategic materials like titanium sponge—the basis for titanium. We must take care we do not use a program designed to assist developing countries' trade to inadvertently assist the demise of our domestic capacity to produce these materials that help make our military the strongest in the world.

MACV

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Minnesota Assistance

Council for Veterans (MACV), and in honor of their receiving the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans 2003 Outstanding Member Award.

The Outstanding Member Award is presented annually to the coalition member that demonstrates "exemplary commitment and service to American's homeless veterans." Through a strong, collaborative partnership with medical and veterans' centers across Minnesota and an unmatched commitment to the state's homeless veterans population, the MACV has met and exceeded these qualifications. As a result, this award recognizes the tremendous achievements the MACV has provided for all Minnesota citizens.

Since 1992, when it opened its first office in my Congressional District, the MACV has grown significantly. Today, the MACV operates eight transitional housing facilities throughout the state. By providing food, housing, employment and school opportunities in a structured, affordable program, the MACV represents a model organization for other states to replicate.

As we celebrate the achievements of the MACV and all our nation's homeless assistance programs, I urge my colleagues to remember the thousands of homeless veterans across the United States that go without help each and every day. On any given night, 275,000 veterans of the United States armed forces—including thousands in Minnesota—are homeless, and many struggle with alcohol, drug and mental challenges. It is critical that we continue to support the efforts of those who seek to provide these honorable veterans with a better way-of-life.

I commend the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans and their staff for this award, and thank the thousands of people across the United States committed to helping our nation's homeless veterans each and every day.

CONGRATULATING THE CINCINNATI ART MUSEUM ON ITS NEW CINCINNATI WING

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the Cincinnati Art Museum on the occasion of the opening of its new Cincinnati Wing.

The Cincinnati Wing showcases 400 works of art with connections to Cincinnati, the Queen City, in 15 renovated galleries encompassing 18,000 square feet of space. The galleries are decorated with recreations of period wallpaper depicting the 200 year story of our great American city's history. This award-winning project also features panoramic views of beautiful Eden Park and downtown Cincinnati.

The elegant new space will allow rarely viewed Cincinnati art to be displayed. The collection includes paintings, sculptures and decorative art from the late 19th century to the 1980s. From the great ceramics of Rookwood Pottery and the superb carved furniture of Aesthetic Movement craftsmen such as Benn Pitman, to the sculpture of Hiram Powers and the paintings of Frank Duveneck and John Twachtman, Cincinnati's artists produced works of international renown and made the Queen City a center for art.

We congratulate Cincinnati Art Museum Director Timothy Rub, his very capable staff and the many supporters of the Art Museum in the Greater Cincinnati community for their vision and commitment. This new wing commemorates the rich tradition of the fine arts in Cincinnati and will be a magnificent to one of the great art museums in America.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF KOREAN IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration as they celebrate 100 years of Korean immigration to the United States.

A century ago, 102 Koreans immigrated to Hawaii as sugar plantation workers, the leaders of a new wave of Korean immigration to the U.S. Today, the Korean-American community has grown to 2 million, making it the fifth largest Asian community in the U.S. Korean-Americans have overcome many challenges along the way; however, the success the Korean-American community currently enjoys is largely due to the perseverance and hard work of those first immigrants to Hawaii 100 years ago.

The United States has benefited greatly from the participation of the Korean-American community in business, medicine, the arts and many other fields. Moreover, the Korean-American community has flourished here. The 11th District of Virginia exemplifies this symbiotic relationship, with a large and vibrant Korean-American community making lasting contributions to Northern Virginia. As the Representative of a district that has greatly benefited from the participation of its Korean-American citizens, I was an original co-sponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 297, which recognizes the contributions of Korean-Americans during the past 100 years in business, science, the arts and other fields. This resolution passed in the House of Representatives by a 417-0 vote on September 23, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I applaud the leadership of the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration in commemorating the achievements and contributions of Korean-Americans in the United States. Efforts like theirs are what make our representative democracy work: they have helped not only to educate the American public about the values and accomplishments of the Korean-American community, but also to secure a more effective representation of those communities throughout the United States.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HARVEY AND ANIS KELLEY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two outstanding cattle ranchers from Plateau Valley,

Colorado whose hard work and dedication exemplifies the spirit of the West. Harvey and Anis Kelley are no less pioneers than their grandparents who first came to Colorado in early part of the last century. They have carried on that proud tradition for the last fifty years, and I am proud to pay tribute to their accomplishments before this body of Congress today.

No one can deny cattle ranching is a hard profession. There are no days off and no escape from inclement weather. Ranchers work from sunrise to sunset, and few today carry on this proud work and its traditions. Harvey and Anis are fine representatives of the heartland and their work is the life-blood of this nation. Therefore, it is with pride that I congratulate them upon receiving a lifetime recognition award from the Plateau Valley Cattlewomen at their Stockgrower's Banquet and Ball.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to recognize Harvey and Anis Kelley before this body of Congress and this Nation for their contributions to Plateau Valley and our country. I trust that the years ahead will continue to find Harvey and Anis side by side making a difference in the history of Colorado and our country. Thank you Harvey and Anis for making Colorado a place where hard work and tradition still thrive.

THE DEATHS OF GUILLERMO GAVIRIA CORREA AND GILBERTO ECHEVERRI MEJIA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to express my grief for the deaths of Guillermo Gaviria Correa and Gilberto Echeverri Mejia. For their deaths, and the loss of eight other hostages that died with them, I wish to give my sincerest condolences to their families, to the people of Antioquia whom they served, and to the whole of Colombia.

Dr. Gaviria Correa, the governor of the Department of Antioquia, and his Peace Commissioner, Gilberto Echeverri Mejia, were killed by the guerilla group known as the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) on May 5, 2003. They had been held captive by the FARC since April 21, 2003, the day their group was kidnapped while marching for peace to the town of Caicedo.

Guillermo Gaviria was a leader in the non-violent movement in Colombia. At a time when Colombia is being ripped apart by violence, when many Colombians are motivated by rough justice and revenge, he proposed a different approach—non-violence. Inspired by basic Christian teachings, Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., Guillermo Gaviria set out to change the way Colombians address the problems that face them.

He did not just seek to change the nature of the debate, he put his ideas into action. As governor of Antioquia he established the "Peace Congruent Plan", a plan which would: Face the causes of the armed conflict and the social violence through solutions reached among representatives from different communities ideologies and beliefs, and build social culture and a government based on participation.

Shortly after becoming governor, Guillermo Gaviria initiated a series of popular marches and demonstrations against the war. Each carried a motto, such as "Break the silence, the mothers, wives and daughters of the kidnapped are doing it". He organized "solidarity caravans" and peace demonstrations in every corner of the Department.

He challenged the FARC to stop attacking civilians. He challenged the paramilitaries to stop looting. He challenged both to leave civilians out of the conflict—"we won't be part of the war, but part of the peace." At every point, he remained faithful to his non-violent and religious creed: "Let us hate the sin but not the sinner". Governor Gaviria was a light to his people.

It is a tragedy for all of us that this light was extinguished. He was a unique figure in Colombia, a figure of hope, a figure of a brighter future. Colombia desperately needs people with great vision and great courage. Guillermo Gaviria was one of these people. How many more like him are there? How many have been killed in the incessant violence that plagues this beautiful country?

It pains me in particular to see the passing of Guillermo Gaviria and Gilberto Echeverri, two great hopes of the Colombian people. Antioquia is my second home. I lived and worked there as a Peace Corps Volunteer. The course my life has taken is closely tied to my time in and around the barrios of Medellin. I saw first-hand the extent of the challenges that the people of Medellin have to face. I also saw how industrious and dedicated they are. Guillermo Gaviria was a tribute to this "paisa" spirit. Antioquia has lost a dear native son.

In the wake of this tragedy, all Colombians must dedicate themselves to honoring the memory and vision of Guillermo Gaviria and Gilberto Echeverri. President Uribe, himself a "paisa" and former governor of Antioquia, can take the lead by continuing support for Governor Gaviria's vision of a non-violent Colombia.

I look forward to working with the President in promoting this vision, one that Colombians, after so many years of violence, desperately deserve. Promoting and advancing non-violence is the best way to honor the memory of Governor Gaviria, and the best way to bring peace to a terribly troubled nation.

EUROPE DAY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to note that today, May 9, is Europe Day.

Fifty-three years ago, then French Foreign Minister Robert Shuman announced a plan that proposed the pooling of European coal and steel production under a common authority as a way to bring some sense of order to the economic recovery of post-World War II Europe.

The Shuman Declaration, which was formalized in a treaty the following year, was regarded as the first step toward achieving a united Europe. Since that time, we have witnessed an extraordinary evolution within Europe toward what has now become the Euro-

pean Union—a treaty-based institutional framework which defines and manages economic and political cooperation among its current 15—soon to be—25 member countries.

Mr. Speaker, although the difficult debate over Iraq presented yet another challenge to the relationship between the United States and a few countries in Europe, it remains clear to this Member a strong, developed transatlantic relationship is critical to the long-term political, economic and security interests of both the United States and Europe. It is also clear that one of the central ingredients to a successful partnership with Europe is a stable, integrated and dynamic Europe—and the European Union has evolved to become, along with NATO, one of the two critical international organizations for achieving those objectives.

We in this country may not fully understand or appreciate all that has, and is, evolving within the European Union. But it remains clear that as we have worked so well with Europe within the NATO Alliance over the years, we must strive to develop a better working knowledge of, and relationship with, the European Union that will be both a transatlantic partner and an economic competitor for America.

Mr. Speaker, as we prepare for the forthcoming U.S.—EU summit in June, today, Europe Day, is as good a time as ever to begin to renew our enduring and critical alliance with the countries of Europe and with the European Union.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1261, the reauthorizing legislation for the Workforce Investment Act. This bill will not benefit people with disabilities and other Americans who are seeking to secure jobs that increase self-sufficiency and integration into the mainstream of community life.

For years, state vocational rehabilitation programs have provided optimal service with minimal funding. In 2001, 233,000 individuals with disabilities entered the workforce with the help of VR. Those individuals earned \$3.4 billion in wages and paid nearly \$1 billion in State and Federal taxes. The success rate for VR programs nationally is 69 percent—higher than most other government programs providing services to adults. And after 3 years of job placement, 76 percent of those individuals continue to be gainfully employed.

H.R. 1261 grants governors unrestricted access to funds specifically intended for VR and other essential programs to use for one-stop

center infrastructure, with no assurances that people with disabilities or other target populations would continue to benefit from the funds. One-stop centers, while effective in certain populations, are not programmatically—or in many cases, physically—accessible for people with disabilities.

In this time of state budget constraints, 37 state VR agencies are operating under such limited resources that they have instituted an “order of selection” policy, serving people with the most severe disabilities first. They are being forced to leave behind increasing numbers of eligible individuals who want to work. H.R. 1261 would exacerbate this situation, by taking funds from the successful VR programs to fund programs that cannot reach their target population. In light of the unemployment crisis faced by our Nation and staggering 70 percent unemployment rate in the disability community, it is critical that we preserve the funding stream for VR programs.

Please vote against H.R. 1261.

HONORING DR. JANIS LYNN
PAUSHTER UPON HER RETIRE-
MENT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a proud supporter of the excellent Fairfax County, Virginia, Public School System to recognize one of its shining lights. Dr. Janis Lynn Paushter, a 26-year contributor to our nationally recognized school system and principal of Fairhill Elementary School since 1991, is retiring at the end of this year's term.

The common sentiment of parents, teachers and students at Fairhill School on learning of her decision to retire is disappointment. Dr. Paushter is loved and respected throughout the Fairhill community for her leadership qualities, her excellence as a role model, her talents as a fair and trusted administrator and her genuine love for her students, associates and her position.

Dr. Paushter earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Syracuse University, her Master's degree from Columbia University, and conducted additional post-graduate studies at George Mason University. She has been honored with numerous educational awards and has been invited to lecture on educational matters at Oxford University in England, Korea, and China.

Later this year, she will be relocating to Florida to establish a horse ranch with help from her two Jack Russell terriers and her German shepherd. Thanks to her talents as a mentor, her shining light will not be extinguished as she leaves, but illuminated more brightly through her associates and students.

I ask her colleagues to join me today in recognizing and commending Dr. Janis Paushter for her untiring support of thousands of Fairfax County students and in thanking her for all she has accomplished for education during her illustrious career.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers; providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge all of my colleagues to vote against H.R. 1261, the Workforce Investment and Adult Education Act (WIA). WIA authorizes and funds employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs for adults and dislocated workers, as well as activities for disadvantaged and low-income youth.

I have numerous concerns with the legislation before this House. However, I want to briefly discuss just two of the reasons that make this bill flawed.

H.R. 1261 would jeopardize the quality of training provided to workers. This bill fails to help the thousands of Americans who are looking for work or in need of additional job training. H.R. 1261 takes away dedicated funding for vulnerable workers by consolidating funding for Employment Services and service to adults and dislocated workers into block grants. Mr. Speaker, given that unemployment numbers for the month of April rose to 6 percent, a four-month high, it does not make sense that this vital program would lose funding.

But most troubling is the fact that H.R. 1261 would permit faith-based organizations that receive WIA funds to hire or fire employees based on religion. This reverses the federal government's stance of fighting against federally-funded discrimination by exempting religious organizations from anti-discrimination requirements. It also reverses the policy that until now has been supported on a bipartisan basis—because it is the only right and sensible policy. It is the only true American policy.

I ask my colleagues to reject this bill. Provisions in H.R. 1261 would undermine programs designed to aid dislocated workers and public policy aimed at protecting workers from discrimination. American workers need and deserve better.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance

arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Chairman, last week, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced that the unemployment rate rose to 6 percent. In my home state of Wisconsin, we had the fourth highest number of massive layoffs in the country behind much larger states like California and Texas. Sadly, it seems like many here in Washington have gotten used to these grim statistics; after all, under the economic stewardship of President Bush we've lost close to more than 2.7 million jobs since he took office. We have been losing 73,000 jobs a month, which accounts for President Bush having the worst jobs creation record of any President in U.S. history.

We can't count on the stewardship of the Bush administration to get America back to work. It has become clear that this Congress needs to step up and put the task squarely upon its shoulders. This week we have a chance to do this as we take up the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the proposed tax cut. Both of these bills are important in how we not only help people find and maintain jobs, but how we will create new ones. However, I believe we may miss our opportunity to accomplish these goals unless both bills are torn up and rewritten. Today, I would like to specifically talk about the WIA.

The WIA was signed into law in 1998 with the intent of cementing the Federal government's commitment in helping states improve their employment, training, literacy, and vocational rehabilitation programs. Before the act was signed into law, states had a fragmented and duplicative number of programs that were meant to help prepare workers for jobs and to assist them in their searches.

Since its inception, thousands of displaced workers, veterans, and young adults have taken part in—and relied on—programs implemented by the WIA. The “one-stop” system created by WIA has provided them with consolidated services, such as job retraining classes, to get them out of unemployment lines and back onto the payrolls. Title II of the Act has played a critical role in helping adults with low-literacy, basic skill levels and limited English proficiency, by providing them with the training, tools and skills necessary to compete in today's knowledge-driven workforce.

The bill before us today takes the progress made over the last four years and stops it in its tracks. The WIA was custom designed to be effective in an economic downturn like the one we are experiencing now. American workers need the WIA strengthened, not scaled back, but that's exactly what the House Republicans want to do.

Those who have are unemployed will run out of unemployment insurance benefits in 23 days. The last time we extended unemployment benefits was shortly after Christmas and the holidays—when many people had already run out of benefits. For many families, the restoration of benefits was too little, too late. By not including the extension of unemployment benefits in this bill, we will in all likelihood delay helping workers who need it most. Not only does this diminish the original intent of this legislation, but it's also a slap in the face

to the unemployed moms and dads who will to worry if they will be able to pay their mortgage and put food on the table. This is just wrong.

The bill today also block grants adult, dislocated worker, and employment service funding streams. In doing so, the bill would eliminate the funding focus for dislocated workers and terminates the existence of the employment service—the very service which connects individuals to jobs. By block granting the money, it also permits Governors to take funds from partner programs such as Adult Education, and Veterans Reemployment and job training programs for individuals with disabilities to fund other state workforce programs or other administrative costs. Governors would be allowed to take any amount of funding from any of these programs. Given the fact that 45 states have budget deficits, I believe the opportunity to use these funds for other purposes will be too tempting of a fruit for Governors not to pick.

To make matters worse, the bill removes a civil-rights protection that bans employment discrimination based on religious affiliation. This bill allows organizations receiving funds—taxpayers dollars—through WIA to discriminate in hiring based on religion. I believe this provision only serves to politicize the debate surrounding this bill and takes away from the debate we should be having, which is that we should be doing everything we can to help any unemployed worker find a job, not making it easier to discriminate against someone because of what they believe.

The WIA has played a critical role in coordinating state efforts to find people jobs and provide essential services to some of our most vulnerable citizens. At a time when our President's economic plan continues to fail in creating jobs and putting our economy back on the right track, now is not the time to weaken the WIA. I urge my colleagues to vote "NO" on H.R. 1261 and to bring a better bill—one that reflects Congress' commitment to putting Americans back to work—to the floor.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union

had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1261) to enhance the workforce investment system of the Nation by strengthening one-stop career centers, providing for more effective governance arrangements, promoting access to a more comprehensive array of employment, training, and related services, establishing a targeted approach to serving youth, and improving performance accountability, and for other purposes:

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 1261, especially in regard to the provisions in Section 123, which allows discrimination when a faith-based group runs job-training programs.

This provision sets a bad precedent for our Nation and I believe it does not belong in this bill. We should honor the separation between church and state set forth by the Constitution. One of the most important rights we treasure in this country is the right to religious freedom. That's why I believe religion should continue to be a matter of personal choice and not something that is supported or dictated by the Federal Government.

Mr. Chairman, I am concerned that this provision inappropriately blurs the separation between church and state by subsidizing faith-based groups without requiring them to comply with federal non-discrimination laws. This means they could allow refuse to hire people who disagree with the organizations religious views. Employers could use religion to make promotional decisions or as a litmus test for hiring and firing. We would be allowing federal dollars to fund discrimination and that is wrong!

While proponents of this provision argue that they would be expanding opportunities for faith-based organizations, they would really be destroying a basic civil right protection that has existed in federal job training for 21 years. Religiously affiliated organizations currently participate in Federal job training programs with the non-discrimination clause in place. Yet, lifting the discrimination prohibitions will do nothing more than encourage discriminatory practices within these organizations.

Mr. Chairman, I am strongly against these Section 123 provisions and I encourage my colleagues to join me in opposing this flawed legislation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE WALCK FAMILY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to congratulate the inspirational cattle-ranching Walck family of Plateau Valley, Colorado. The Walcks have labored morning to night for generations in this difficult but important occupation. Their efforts truly embody the American Spirit and our shared Western heritage. The Walcks serve as an example of the hard work and dedication that has made our nation great. It is an honor to pay tribute to their success before this body of Congress and this nation. Through their labors together, they serve also as an inspiration to families everywhere.

Until they retired in the mid 1990's, Dean, Roylee, Scott and Betty raised over three hundred cattle, with dedication and professionalism. They have been actively involved in numerous organizations dedicated to the improvement of the American cattle industry, including the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, the Colorado Hereford Association, the Simmental Association, the Mesa County Stockgrowers and the Plateau County Stockgrowers. Roylee also served with distinction as the state president of the Colorado Cowbells, and with Betty, has long been an active member of the Plateau Valley Cattlewomen. For their service and dedication, the Plateau Valley Cattlewomen will honor them soon at their Stockgrower's Banquet and Ball.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege for me to recognize Dean, Roylee, Scott and Betty Walck before this body of Congress and this nation. Their contributions to Plateau Valley and the heritage of the West is appreciated, and I am happy to bring them to the attention of my colleagues here today. They are a strong family who care much for Colorado and our Country. I wish them all the best.